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Bliss - An Address delivered at the Opening  
of the Town-Hall in Springfield - 1828

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November 26, 1917

AN  
**ADDRESS,**  
DELIVERED AT THE  
**OPENING OF THE TOWN-HALL**  
IN  
**SPRINGFIELD,**  
MARCH 24, 1828.  
CONTAINING  
SKETCHES OF THE EARLY HISTORY OF THAT  
TOWN, AND THOSE IN ITS VICINITY.  
**WITH AN APPENDIX.**

---

BY GEORGE BLISS.

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PUBLISHED AT THE REQUEST OF THE TOWN.

.....  
SPRINGFIELD.—TANNATT & CO.

1828.

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## ADDRESS.

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OUR assembling this day, in this Hall, is a subject for mutual congratulation. That the town has, with so much unanimity and concord, undertaken and completed a building, so convenient for the transaction of public business, evinces in the inhabitants, a spirit of liberality and harmony, highly honorable to our society. This building, so ornamental to the place, has been completed, without accident and without contention.\* The occasion suggested a wish to have an historical account of the town. Such a history will, probably, be peculiarly interesting to the inhabitants; but it is also important to the community in general. This was the earliest settlement, in the western part of the state, and itself the parent of many others. It was a colony from the settlements about Massachusetts Bay, begun and carried on while those settlements were yet in infancy. It was an important post against the Indians; and being adjacent to Connecticut, and the only town bordering on that colony, it was long involved in great and violent disputes with that government.

The means of compiling such an account are not over ample; but some care has been taken to collect what remains. Many facts now known, may soon be lost; many which might have been found half a century ago, are now irrecoverably gone. Very few traces of the ecclesiastical history of the town can be found.

Several of those who were here at the first settlement, came from England, when the governor and company came over, in the year 1630. How many I am unable to ascertain.

William Pynchon, Esq. who may properly be called the father of the town, was one of the patentees in the colony charter, named in the deed of 1627, and the charter of 1628. He was appointed

\*See Appendix A.

a magistrate and assistant in Oct. 1629, in England, when the governor and other officers were appointed. He came from England with governor Winthrop, and first settled at Roxbury. The number who then came to Massachusetts, cannot be given; but it is said there were 2000 in 1630, and in 1633, a large addition, bringing with them several distinguished ministers.

The discovery of Connecticut river, was, probably, not made so early as that of some other streams, less important, owing to Long Island stretching along before its mouth. But in 1631, a bark which had been to the south, sailed up the river some distance. The Plymouth colony had sent to build a trading house, and the Dutch began a settlement at Hartford. But it is said, that the first dwelling house built on the river, by an European, was at the mouth of Windsor Little river, by William Holmes, in Oct. 1633.

The information given of the favorable situation of that river, induced many of the inhabitants about Boston, to make strenuous efforts to remove. The General Court had prohibited any persons removing without their consent. This prohibition was grounded on their being engaged in a joint undertaking, to make improvements for the common benefit; and if every one were at liberty to desert it when he pleased, it might not only prevent a beneficial improvement, but endanger the lives of those who remained. For one or two years, applications to remove to the Connecticut, were unsuccessful; but this did not hinder exploring parties from going out and making arrangements for settlements. This was the case in regard to Wethersfield, Hartford and Windsor. There is a tradition, that some of those that came to Wethersfield, in the year 1634, remained through the winter.

Early in the year 1635, the people of Watertown, and Dorchester, and afterwards those at Newton, obtained the consent of the General Court, that they should remove to the Connecticut river. In May, 1635, Mr. Pynchon, and the inhabitants of Roxbury, had also liberty granted them to remove themselves to any place that they should think meet, not to prejudice any other plantation, provided they continued under the government of Massachusetts. A similar condition was annexed to the leave given to the other towns. In the latter part of the year 1635, the Dorchester people, with their minister, Mr. Wareham, came to Mattaneaug, at first called Dorchester, and afterwards Windsor. Those from Newton, or Cambridge, came to Suckiang, called by them Newton, and since Hartford; those from Watertown, to Pauquiaaug, called Watertown, now Wethersfield.

In the same year, Mr. Pynchon, Henry Smith, Jehu Burr, and probably, some others, came to this place, called by the Indians

Aggawam, and began to build a house, on the west side of the river, on the Aggawam, in the meadow, called from that fact, Housemeadow.\* The Indians, seeing this, and being perfectly friendly, informed them that the house would be exposed to the flood, and they abandoned it, and came and built a house on the east side of the river ; probably, on the lot afterwards owned by Mr. Pynchon, and still possessed by his descendants. It is supposed they returned to Roxbury in the fall. Mr. Pynchon, at the spring election after, was chosen a magistrate, as he had been years before ; but it is noted on the record, that he was absent at the time of election.

In the spring of the year 1636, Mr. Pynchon, with a number of other persons, with their families, removed from Roxbury, and came to this place. How long they were on the journey, or in what course they came, is now unknown. It is mentioned that some that went from Hartford, in the winter before, were ten days in getting to Boston. It is not easy for those who dwell at ease, and are in the enjoyment of civilized society, and the various domestic comforts which we possess, to conceive of the difficulties, perplexities, and distresses, attending a new settlement, among hordes of savages and wild beasts, at a distance of a hundred miles from civilized society, and a wilderness, interspersed with mountains, rivers, ponds, and marshes, intervening. It is rare that new settlers go a great distance without having something of a road by land or water. It is not common that they put themselves so far from neighbours. Ordinarily they continue under the protection of a government able and willing to repel aggression and redress their wrongs.

When Mr. Pynchon, and those who accompanied him, came here, they made an agreement, the original of which is in the first book of records of the town, subscribed by them. It is dated May 14, 1636, and consists of fifteen articles. The first of which provides for the settlement of a minister. The second limits the number of families to forty, and not to exceed fifty. The other articles provide for the rule and mode of division, and defraying the expenses of the settlement.† This agreement has the signature of only eight persons, though there is internal evidence that there were twelve concerned. The names of those who subscribed it are, William Pynchon, Matthew Mitchell, Henry Smith, Jehu Burr, William Blake, Edmund Wood, Thomas Ufford, and John Cabell. Jehu Burr and Thomas Ufford, did not write, but made their mark. The other four who were united with them

\*Appendix B.

†Appendix C.



were, Thomas Woodford, John Reader, Samuel Butterfield, and James Wood. It is worthy of remark, that not one of the first adventurers died here ; and, I believe, none but Mr. Pynchon left descendants here. Several of them gave up their allotments to the company. This was the case with Blake, Ufford, Mitchell, the two Woods, Reader, and Butterfield. Burr remained here two or three years, and then removed into Connecticut. Cabell, in 1641, sold his lot to the town. Mr. Pynchon, in 1652, and Smith, in 1653, went to England, and died there.\* All, except Pynchon, Smith, and Cabell, gave up their interest, and it was afterwards granted to other persons. The first allotment was so different from the actual settlement, that it is not easy to trace it.

It was of the first importance, situated as the early planters were, to prevent persons deserting the undertaking, while in its infant state, to guard against the admission of improper associates, and to prevent the property from accumulating in two or three hands. They, therefore, ordered, in January, 1638-9, that a person who had a lot, should not sell to one who was already provided. When a person was desirous of removing, he was bound to give the plantation notice ; and if they disallowed the sale he was about to make, the plantation was to take the lot, if they chose, at an appraisement. If no measures were taken after 10 days notice, the first bargain might proceed. In making the actual settlement, the following was the most general course : to allow each inhabitant a house lot on the west side of what is now called Main street, eight rods wide, from the street to the river ; a like width in the meadow, in front of his house, to the foot of the hill ; and a wood lot of the same breadth, extending, at first, eighty, and afterwards, an hundred rods, nearly to the top of the hill ; and, when practicable, an allotment in the interval on the west side of the river, of the same width, as near as might be directly against his lot. This was the ordinary course ; there were a few instances where the lots were wider ; but, I believe, only one narrower †

The original limitation to fifty families, may seem strange and extraordinary to us, at this day. But it is apparent that those who made that agreement contemplated, at first, having their house lots all on the west side of the street, within the compass of two miles. When this limitation was made, the house lots were to be much wider than they afterwards established them. The marsh, or meadow, on the east side of the street was considered unfit for building ; and the upland east of it, was reserved for

\*Appendix D.

†Appendix E.

wood lots. But the manner of cultivation is also to be considered; it was very different from that of the present day. It is very evident, from the early history, that it was extremely difficult and inconvenient for any considerable number to gain a subsistence together. They had very strong inducements, not only for their mutual accommodation, but more than that, for their self-defence and self preservation, to keep in compact settlements. Yet, neither their fears, nor public prohibitions, could prevent their wandering and scattering themselves abroad. It may be stated, with truth, that to some, a roving, unsettled disposition, was a sufficient cause for wishing to remove. This, however, could not generally be the case. The manner of cultivation gives the only and full solution of the difficulty. They generally had their farms in common. Partition fences were a work of much labor and time. It is apparent, from the places selected for the first settlement, that the principal dependence was upon the intervals and cleared lands. They took only the natural grass for their cattle, and the land which was clear of timber, for their planting grounds. To fell the forests, and clear land for a crop of wheat or corn, was a work of much labor, and one to which they had been but rarely accustomed before their emigration. Potatoes, which now afford so much aid in a new settlement, were then unknown. Tradition has always represented the house lots as originally a birch plain. The above considerations unquestionably operated upon the first associates at this place.

When the settlement was made here, there were no white inhabitants on the east side of the river nearer, in any course in which they would travel, than Watertown. A settlement had, indeed, been begun at Concord, a short time before. On the west side of the river, the only settlements were those towns which had been commenced the year before. These places, at first, bore the names of the towns which they respectively left.

The first settlers came, indeed, as did all the other plantations, under the license, and the professed authority and protection of Massachusetts; but they were so separated from the towns on the Bay, as to be obliged, principally, to rely on themselves. Aggawam was at first united with the other towns below, on the river, as no distinction had been made in the license to remove; all being subject to the same restriction.

The license, in one instance, mentions towns, and in others plantations on Connecticut river. A joint commission for their government, for the term of one year, was made, containing regulations as to the mode of administering justice. In this commission there was a saving of the rights of those who had just obtain-

ed the patent of Connecticut.\* It appears by the Connecticut record, that under this order, at a court holden at Newton [Hartford] Nov. 1636, Mr. Pynchon was present, with the other magistrates. In the year 1637, Mr Pynchon was again appointed, with Mr. Ludlow, and others. In 1638, it is stated on the town record, "that there was a free choice according to the order from Mr. Ludlow, by the plantation, of two committys for the general court, to be holden at Hartford, April 4, 1638, and the partys chosen are Mr. George Moxon and Jehu Burr." And it appears that both Pynchon and Burr attended.

Aggawam was also assessed with the towns in Connecticut, to furnish its quota of troops, and to pay a portion of the expense of the Pequot war. The number of men required of them, was seven, and the amount of tax they were to pay, was £86. 16s. sterling, the whole being £550. Dr. Trumbull, in his history of Connecticut, observes that this place did not furnish the troops, but paid the assessment. I should have come to a different conclusion, were it not for his authority. I find no evidence of any payment or assessment, on our records ; and the Pynchon minute book gives no hint respecting either troops or money for that purpose. When the leave was given to come here, the General Court loaned to the adventurers, certain military stores and ammunition, to be furnished by the towns of Watertown, Dorchester and Roxbury.†

This place did not long continue united with the other towns on the river. The three towns formed a voluntary constitution, in February, 1639, in which no mention is made of Aggawam. The inhabitants of Aggawam believing themselves to be within the jurisdiction of Massachusetts, Feb. 14, 1638, came into a voluntary agreement, and appointed William Pynchon, Esq. a magistrate, with extensive powers, and directed the proper course of proceeding, till they should receive orders from Massachusetts. This regulation, most clearly shews the wisdom and prudence of the people ; and is as pure a specimen of democratic legislation, as is extant.‡ It has been suggested that Mr. Pynchon was dissatisfied with some proceedings at Hartford, in which he was personally concerned, and that he joined with Massachusetts on that account. I find no evidence of this ; but I do find that the south line of the colony of Massachusetts had been run, and it was then supposed to be ascertained that the line passed between Springfield and Windsor. From the time of making the last mentioned order, Springfield continued within the jurisdiction of Massachu-

\*Appendix F.

†Appendix G.

‡Appendix H.

setts, and sent deputies to the General Court, as the other towns did.

The original name of the place was *Aggawam*, or, as our ancestors sometimes wrote it, *Agam*. There were several other places in the state which had the same Indian name. The most famous was Ipswich; and there were two in Plymouth colony. The precise signification of it, I know not; but finding that places bearing this name, are meadows, with a small river running through them, near to which they unite with larger waters, I am induced to conjecture it is indicative of its local situation. The name was changed from Aggawam to Springfield, by vote of the town, in general meeting, April 14, 1640. Hubbard, in his general history, states, that the name was given out of regard to Mr. Pyncheon, who had his mansion in a town of that name, near Chelmsford, in Essex, before he came to this country. Whatever be the origin, it is peculiarly appropriate. It is very rare that a place so abundantly watered with rivers, brooks, streams and springs, can be found.\* The first appearance of the name upon the records of the General Court, is in 1641; before that it is spoken of as Aggawam. That name often occurs in the records of 1638, 39, and 40; afterwards it was always called and known by the name of Springfield, and no other.

Much uncertainty has existed as to the date of the incorporation of the town. When the Massachusetts Registers were first published, it was stated as 1635, or 1645, leaving it uncertain which was the true time. This was continued for several years. At length the latter date was exclusively fixed upon as if it had been discovered that the town was incorporated in 1645; and for several years, that date has been generally adopted. I have repeatedly examined the public records of that period, with attention and care, and have not been able to discover a single fact occurring in 1645, which should induce the selection of that year, in preference to any other in that century. That such a mistake should occur, will not be thought very strange; for so far as I can find, there is not in print, any where, the incorporation of the most ancient towns. This is to the disgrace of the state. It has long been a complaint, that our ancient laws can hardly be found. Some of the general acts have, indeed, been repeatedly published; but many others were never printed. The record of incorporation of the oldest towns, is extremely laconic. For example, it was "ordered that Aggawam shall be called Ipswich." "Trimountain is made a town by the name of Boston." "Wessacus-

\*Appendix I.

cous shall be a town by the name of Newbury ;" and persons were appointed to set out the bounds.

No regular act of incorporation, as they are now made, was given to any of the towns, till long after the time of which we are now speaking, if any ever passed during the existence of the colonial government. In regard to Springfield, no such transaction of the General Court can be found, as, according to the practice of that day, could be called an incorporation. After searching thoroughly, in Massachusetts and Connecticut, I have come to the conclusion that the town never was incorporated. The settlement, for two or three years, united with the other towns in Connecticut, and sent deputies to the General Court. But it is styled in the Connecticut records, the plantation of Aggawam. If the general license, originally given to remove to the river and form settlements, called indiscriminately towns and plantations, and the authority given for their government, in which was included a direction as to the choice of constables, and prescribing their duty as town officers, can be deemed an act of incorporation, it ought to bear the date of the commission then given ; but a license to settle any where on the river, can hardly be called an incorporation of a particular town or place.

It is probable that when the jurisdiction of Connecticut was renounced, and application made to Massachusetts for direction, it was made by the name of the town of Springfield, during the year 1640 ; and that its not having been made a town by the General Court, was not adverted to at the time. Very soon after, it was recognized as a town, sent deputies to the General Court, and conducted, and was treated, in all respects, as a town. The settlement was begun in 1636, and the place is recognized by the name of Springfield, by the General Court, in 1641. In 1647, additions were made to the town of Springfield. Were I to fix the date, it would be 1641 ; as from that time it was recognized by the name of the town of Springfield, by the Legislature. The mere vote as to the name, in 1640, ought not to affect this question.

The limits of the town were not originally better defined, than the date of incorporation. The earliest notice I find on this subject, is an order of the plantation, bearing date January 3, 1638, appointing six men to set out the bounds of the plantation, on both sides of the river, and to mark the trees for the clearing of it. It may here be observed, once for all, that the dates in our ancient records begin the year the 22d of March. January, February, and the former part of March, are reckoned in the preceding year. Sometimes, instead of the heathen names of the months, they reck-

on 1, 2, 3, 4, and so on. In this case, they begin with April as the first. Counting the time by this rule, the order was January, 1639, as we reckon ; and a return was made, describing the boundaries as follows : "We have laid out the boundaries of the plantation up the river, on the other side of the river, and the bounds are at a brook above the great meadow, which is about a quarter of a mile above ye mouth of Chicopee river. The brook in the long meadow, at the lower end, is the bounds southward, and the brook a little below, on the other side,—and the bounds that is set for gathering candlewood into the woods." The distance east and west, is not mentioned in this order, or return ; but the town claimed and exercised jurisdiction to the extent of five or six miles from the river. There is nothing on the records of the General Court, for the first ten years, as to the bounds of the town, though it is frequently mentioned as a town within the colony limits.

In the year 1647, the town petitioned to have the land at Freshwater, (now Enfield,) granted to them, and also to have Woronoco, (now Westfield.) And in that year the bounds of the town were greatly enlarged. It was ordered by the General Court, in March, 1647, that all the land east of Connecticut river, from the *town of Springfield*, down to the warehouse, which they built there, and twenty poles below the warehouse, should, for the present, belong to the town of Springfield. The warehouse was at Warehouse-point, at a house occupied by John Bissell, nearly in the north line of Windsor. It was meant to include all the land within this colony, according to the measuring of Woodward and Saffery. Over this territory, Massachusetts claimed and exercised jurisdiction for a century from that date. The eastern boundary of that tract was also left wholly undefined.

In the autumn of the same year, another annexation was made of a very valuable tract of land, called Woronoco, including part of the towns of Suffield, Westfield, and Southwick. "October 27, 1647, *Woronoco upon Connecticut river*, within the jurisdiction of Massachusetts, is ordered to be, and reputed to be, a part of the town of Springfield, and liable to pay charges there, as others of the same town, till erecting another plantation, it shall be annexed thereto." By a subsequent order, Springfield was to adjoin Northampton and Hadley, and to extend eastward to the foot of the mountains ; which meant the eastern base of the first mountains.

This territory included the towns of Westfield, Suffield, and a great part of Southwick, and the whole of West Springfield, on the west side of the river, and the towns of Springfield, Enfield,

Somers, Wilbraham, Ludlow and Longmeadow, on the east ; and contained, according to the last census, a population of 21,531, and a territory nearly 25 miles square. The most of it was at that time, in a wilderness state. One or more early establishments had been made at Woronoco. This was an important post for the beaver trade with the Indians. It was claimed both by Connecticut and Massachusetts. I believe there is no doubt both had trading houses there. The progressive settlement and division of this territory into towns and parishes, I shall notice hereafter.

One leading object of the first settlers, in coming to this place, was, that they might have a settled minister, and unite in a church. Mr. Pynchon left his minister, Mr. Elliott, at Roxbury, and the towns in Connecticut brought ministers with them. But in a short time after he came, a minister was settled here, and a church gathered. The Rev. George Moxon, was probably settled in the year 1637. He was in that year made a freeman, at Boston, and in April, 1638, was appointed a deputy, by this town, to go to Hartford. When he came from England, is not known. There are no early church records extant ; but there is no reason to doubt that a church was gathered at the time of his coming here. Mr. Pynchon, and several others who were here then, were church members, and persons eminent for piety, and professedly designed to organize a church, without delay. The formation of the church has been, by some writers, I know not upon what authority, postponed to the year 1645, as the time of incorporation of the town was. This church was probably the fourteenth in Massachusetts.\* After Mr. Moxon left Springfield, there was an interval of nearly nine years, in which they had not a settled minister. During that time, they had several preachers, who stayed some time. With that exception, there have been, with very short interruptions, one or more settled ministers ever since Mr. Moxon came here.

In the year 1639, a house for Mr. Moxon was built, by a voluntary assessment. The house was 35 by 15 feet, with a porch and a study in it. The roof was thatched, and the cellar planked, instead of stone wall. Mr. Moxon had a grant of a house lot and other lands, as the other inhabitants had. His homelot was fourteen rods, instead of eight. In the year 1645, a contract was made by the town, with Thomas Cooper, to build a meetinghouse. The house was to be 40 feet long and 25 wide ; to be 9 feet between joists, to be double studded, four large windows, two on each side, and one smaller one at each end ; one large door at

\*The editor of Winthrop's Journal, postponing it to 1645, makes it the 26th

the south side, and two smaller doors ; to have joists for a floor above, to be underpinned with stone ; to *shingle* the roof, with two turrets, one for a bell, the other for a watch-house : for which he was to be paid fourscore pounds [to be paid] in wheat, peas, pork, *wampum*, debts and labor. Each inhabitant was to furnish twenty days work in all. The meetinghouse was placed a rod or two northwest of the place where the store of Daniel Lombard now stands, and fronting to the south. A road, one rod wide, passed on the south side of it, to the training field, or burying ground. It is probable this was then the only house here with a shingled roof, or stone underpinning. A chamber floor was laid, and the chamber occupied for a store, by John Pynchon and others ; but it seems, afterwards the floor was removed and a gallery made. Mr. Moxon's salary was at first forty pounds sterling, and paid by an annual tax.

As Springfield was on the borders of Connecticut, and for many years the only town bordering on that colony, and had once united with them, it was frequently claimed to belong there. There was, however, a more violent contest as to Woronoco. Mr. Fenwick, the governor of Saybrook, had established a trading house, and claimed it as within the patent of Connecticut. This, probably, embraced part of Southwick and Suffield, as well as Westfield. In making the grant to Springfield, it is called Woronoco upon *Connecticut river*. The controversy with Mr. Fenwick was carried on for several years. But as affecting Springfield, there arose a more serious and bitter controversy.

The patentees of the charter of Connecticut had, about the time of the first settlement on the river, commenced a fort at Saybrook point, at the mouth of the river. They appointed John Winthrop, Jr. son of the first governor, their commander, and vested him with authority over the river. He claimed a toll from all passengers to aid in supporting the fort. This was exacted, not only from foreigners, but the inhabitants of the towns on the river. The towns below, sensible that they had settled on the lands of the proprietors of the fort, and were liable to be ousted by them, did not controvert the payment. The inhabitants of Springfield, strenuously resisted payment ; and when it was attempted to be enforced, they determined to have the full benefit of this great natural highway, and appealed to the General Court for assistance and protection. The General Court resolved that they were not bound to pay toll. The people in Connecticut, on the river, afterwards agreed to purchase the fort and the jurisdiction of the river, and also the claim against Springfield for the toll which had accrued before the purchase. The Saybrook gov-



ernment had subsisted independent of that on the river, for nearly ten years, when this purchase was made, which was December 5, 1644. The government of Connecticut claimed the toll which had accrued. This occasioned as great and famous a controversy between Massachusetts and Connecticut, as almost any in their history. It was long agitated before the commissioners of the united colonies. The arguments on both sides were learned and powerful. Not only the two colonies, but the whole four united colonies were finally engaged in the quarrel. The commissioners determined it was reasonable that Springfield should pay; but they resolved never to yield.

In order to test the principle of this decision, the General Court of Massachusetts ordered that all vessels belonging to the other colonies, should pay a certain toll upon entering the harbor of Boston. This was greatly resented, and seemed likely to break up the confederacy of the colonies. More urgent common danger induced all parties to suspend their controversy, which, I believe, was never resumed. The conduct of Massachusetts has been very severely blamed, by Connecticut historians, and is spoken of with more disapprobation by Hutchinson, than I think it deserves. As to the right to the claim, it rests upon the same ground with that of Connecticut. Both of them were probably very impolitic; but both must stand or fall together.

The town increased rapidly, and the settlements extended in all directions, till an event took place which seemed likely greatly to check, if not to destroy it. Mr. Pynchon had been employed in all public concerns, and had been a magistrate from 1636 to 1650, including the two or three years when the town was united with Connecticut. In the year 1650, he fell under the censure of the General Court, for having published a book, not in accordance with their sentiments, in some of its theological opinions, in regard to the atonement. He was left out of the magistracy, and cited before them, and laid under heavy bonds. The next year, Mr. Pynchon, in a letter addressed to the General Court, retracted his sentiments. The censure of him was suspended, but he was so much dissatisfied that he went to England, and Mr. Moxon went with him. Whether he approved Mr. Pynchon's book, is not known. Mr. Pynchon did not take his family, but Mr. Moxon did. Neither of them returned. Henry Smith, Mr. Pynchon's son in law, remained here a year, and then sold his property, and, with his family, removed to England, and remained there till he died.\*

Mr. Pynchon was a man of distinction, of eminent piety, and respectable talents. He appears to have had the confidence of the town while he remained. Henry Smith was a man of educa-

tion, and was appointed a magistrate when Mr. Pynchon was left out. He was a good penman, and much employed in the affairs of the town.\*

The loss of three such men could not but have been severely felt. But the absence of Mr. Pynchon was made up in his son, John Pynchon, who remained here. He was a man of uncommon talents, and admirably adapted to his situation. To mention no others, Deacon Samuel Chapin, and Elizur Holyoke, were well qualified for public business, and much employed in it.

The subject of the title to the land within the town, is one that ought not to be passed over. So far as the General Court could give a title, I think it may be fairly inferred that it has been done. In the establishment of the most ancient towns, there was no express grant of the right of soil. It seems to have been implied in the authority to be a town. By the colony laws of 1636, it was provided, that the freemen of every town, with such others as are allowed, shall have power to dispose of their own lands and woods, and to grant lots. The acts and doings of the General Court, having made this a town, gave the right to dispose of the land within it. The law provided that a record of such grants, and the bounds of each man's lot should be made, and a transcript of it sent to the General Court. In regard to Springfield, a special order was made of this import.

The general right of civilized man to appropriate to his use, a part of the land claimed by those who roam the forest in a savage state, I cannot here discuss ; and I feel that, in the present case, there is no necessity for observations on the subject. The greater part of the land within the limits of the town, extensive as they were, was obtained by fair purchase from the Indians. There are several deeds on record. They were made to agents, in behalf of the town. The names of the grantors I shall not undertake to give. The first deed is dated July 15, 1636, though a bargain had been made before. This was Accomsiek, and all the ground on the side of Aggawam, except the ground then planted by the Indians ; and also, all the ground on the east side of Quineaticott river, called Usquaioik Nayassett, reaching about four or five miles in length, from the north end of Massacksick, up to Chickuppe river, and also, Massacksick and grounds adjoining, reserving the ground then planted, and liberty to take fish and deer, ground nuts and acorns, and a kind of wild peas.† The second deed is dated April 14, 1652, and conveys the land below Longmeadow, lying on Freshwater, at Enfield. A third deed was made June

\*Appendix K.

†Appendix L.

20, 1666, of the right of those who gave it, to the land at Aggawam and Quana ; and also, the higher meadow and uplands, from the mouth of Aggawam river, up to the ponds west of it ; and all the land into the woods, where Ensign Cooper and Samuel Marshfield had a meadow. The fourth deed, made in the year 1674, was considerably more extensive. It contains, in the first place, a confirmation of the other deeds, from Longmeadow to Chicopee, as far east as the five mile pond, "which lyes by the *bay path*." The south bounds of the tract sold by said fourth deed, is "the riveret called Freshwater, on Asmentuck, including the riveret meadows thereon, to its head, and thence eastward to the riveret called Scantick, up to the place where it comes down from the mountains, and including the meadows on both sides of Scantick. The *foot* of the mountains is the eastern boundary—northerly the Chickuppe river, and west the land first sold." Afterwards, March 16, 1680, a deed was made of the residue of Enfield, down to Saltonstall's brook, and to extend east eight miles. A deed was likewise made of Woronoke, June 3, 1669. Another deed was made of Suffield. Through the agency of John Pynchon, Esq. like purchases were made of Northampton and Hadley.

Some may ridicule the idea of purchasing of the Indians ; but there is no reason to believe that they did not understand what was meant by a sale of land. These transactions were at different periods, from 1636, to 1680. They well understood what the English claimed by virtue of such sale. It appears that the town, as early as April 16, 1640, passed an order to restrain the Indians from breaking up any new grounds, or from planting that which was broken up the year before ; and, as to the swamps in the neck, a part of the land first sold, that stakes should be set up, so that the Indians might be restrained from extending themselves farther. Mr. Moxon, Henry Smith, and Thomas Mirrick, were appointed a committee to execute the order.

The Indians received for these purchases, more than what they sold was worth to them. I go farther, and agree with the judicious and pious historian of Connecticut, that our ancestors gave the full value, and more than the full value of their lands. Whoever is conversant with the hardships, toils and privations attending a new settlement in the wilderness, and will take the trouble to compute what is expended and laid out on and about a settlement, to make land produce any thing—how much its value depends on neighboring settlements—on roads, fences, and the various improvements of civilized life—will inevitably come to the conclusion, that wild land, in a wilderness, remote from neighbors, cannot be of much value. Lands in our new settlements, are

worth but little now. And yet their value is very much enhanced by reference to other places already cleared and settled.

The people here taxed themselves to pay for purchases of the Indians. The first tax on record, except a voluntary one for Mr. Moxon's house, is one of £20 sterling, to pay Mr. Pynchon, in part, for the Indian purchase. This was May 6, 1644. Several grants were made afterwards, upon condition that the grantees should purchase the Indian title.

The administration of justice, as long as William Pynchon remained here, was under his direction. The first year after he came, he acted under the general commission given at the time of removing; then for two years under the associates at Connecticut; and for one or two years by the order of the town, in town meeting; and from 1640 to 1650, under commissions given from time to time by the General Court. His authority as a magistrate was extensive in civil and criminal cases. He officiated as judge of probate, and tried causes. All trials were, however, by jury. The jury to consist of six men, when twelve could not be had. An appeal, upon giving bonds, might be had to the court at Boston. All capital trials were to be at Boston. November 6, 1648, the town, by vote, appointed that four courts should be holden in each year. The constable of the town was to execute all processes; and while there was no gaol, he was to confine persons in his custody, by imprisoning in irons. To supply the want of grand jurors, the town voted to choose two men annually, who were to be under oath, to present all offences to the magistrate, and all breaches of town or court orders. These were called *presenters*.

The authority given to the selectmen was, in some respects, different from what they now have. The following is the copy of the record of a vote, in the hand writing of William Pynchon. The hand is not easily read, and perhaps a word or two may be mistaken. "Springfield, the 26th of the 7th month, 1644.—It is this day agreed by general vote of the towne, that Henry Smith, Tho. Cooper, Samuel Chapin, Richard Sikes, and Henry Burt, shall have power to direct in all the prudential affairs of the towne, to prevent any thing they shall judge to be to the damage of the towne, and to order any thing they shall judge to be for the good of the towne; and they or any three of the five shall have full power for a year's space: and what they or any three of them shall order, shall be of full power and virtue. Also to *hear complaints*, to *arbitrate controversies*, to lay out highways, to make bridges, repair highways, especially to order the making of the way over the muksy meadow, to see to the scouring of the ditches

and to the killing of wolves, and to the training up of the children in their good ruling, or any other thing, they shall judge, to be to the profit of the town." Mr. Pynchon's records are preserved, and in the hands of Edward Pynchon, Esq. There are many proceedings of the town recorded in his record book, and not found elsewhere.

After Mr. Pynchon was left out of the magistracy, Henry Smith had the same power which Mr. Pynchon had exercised. When Smith went to England, it was vested in three persons, of whom John Pynchon was one. After Northampton and Hadley were settled, the commissioners of Springfield and Northampton united and held courts alternately here and at Northampton, until a county and county courts were established.

Drunkenness and lewdness seem, at that period, to have been not very uncommon. They were much more generally and more severely punished than they now are.

As this part of the country increased, the people determined to apply to the General Court to have a county established; and May 7, 1662, the western part of the state was made a county by the name of Hampshire. I have, on another occasion, inadvertently stated this to be in the year 1660. I know not that the law erecting the county is in print; I have never seen it. There were in the county only three towns, Springfield, Northampton and Hadley. There were, however, a number of other settlements commenced, which a short time after were towns.

It is not in my power precisely to fix the time of the early settlements in the different parts of this town. Grants were not unfrequently made years before the land was occupied. Though they were recorded, the date of the grant or transfer is not given. The county records do not reach back far enough. Probably, the earliest settlement, except the homelots in the street, were in Longmeadow. This was not earlier than 1644, and not later than 1646. The first residents in Longmeadow, were in the meadow, and not on the hill. Permission to build on the hill was not given till the year 1703, when the inhabitants, generally, built where the street and meetinghouse now are. There were one or two early settlements at Skipmuck, probably the beginning of the year 1660. On Chicopee river the first cultivation was begun on the south side of that river, and near its mouth. The oldest was in the year 1645.

It is very difficult to fix the time when the inhabitants began to build on the west side of the river. The land there was improved as a common field, as well before as after settlements were commenced. There were, as I believe, three distinct parts of West

Springfield, occupied about the same time. One was south of Agawam river, begun by the ancestors of the Leonards and Coopers. Another was in the first parish, under the hill ; and a third on Chicopee plain, above. These commenced, as far as I can ascertain, in 1653, and soon rapidly increased and extended.

The first house built east of the town street, on the east side of the river, was Charles Ferry's, who had bought the east part of his father Harmon's meadow, and had, in 1661, a special license to build there ; and his descendants own the place to this day.

While this town was thus increasing, a large tract of land above it was purchased of the Indians, through the agency of John Pynchon, Esq. including what is now Northampton, Hadley and Hatfield. A flourishing settlement was commenced in Northampton, in 1653. Soon after, the towns of Hadley and Hatfield were settled.\* In the year 1655, settlements were begun at Freshwater, (now Enfield) ; and in 1656, a considerably extensive allotment was made of lands at Woronoco, (Westfield.) In 1660 or 61, it seems, a settlement was commenced at Suffield.

An order was made, March 12, 1662, that there should be a highway laid out to the *House of Correction*, that is *to be built* on the meadow, and thence to the house that is next to Thompson's dingle ; from which it appears that other settlements were then made or contemplated, on Maple street.

One or two of the first instances of prosecutions for witchcraft, arose from transactions in this town. The delusion on this subject was not then as great as it was afterwards. It was, indeed, the general belief of the age, that witchcraft and diabolical possession were not unfrequent. This was a capital offence, and tried before the Court of Assistants at Boston, and one of the cases afterwards came before the General Court. Hugh Parsons and Mary Parsons, were prosecuted and finally acquitted of this offence. They lived at the lower end of Main street. The character and situation of their accusers, I have been unable to learn. There is nothing on our records on the subject.

In addition to the plantations before mentioned, Quabog, or Brookfield, had been purchased, and a settlement commenced there before 1673. I ought to have noticed Deerfield before. Another plantation was begun farther up the river, at a place called Squaukege, now Northfield.

The country had undoubtedly been to a considerable extent improved and cleared. The inhabitants of the county had greatly increased, as well in this town as others. The Indians could not

\*See Appendix L.

but see with regret, the alterations that were making. Their planting, hunting, and fishing grounds, were gradually diminished. King Philip saw, and felt this most sensibly, and was determined to make an effort for the entire extirpation of the English ; and for that purpose made strenuous exertions to combine all the tribes of Indians in one confederacy. This he effected to a great extent. It is foreign from my purpose to give an account of the origin and progress of the Indian wars, any farther than this town and the settlements connected with it, were particularly affected.

When the English first came to this place, they were received by the Indians with friendship ; and for nearly forty years, lived with them as neighbors, in harmony and peace. Occasionally, complaints were made of the misconduct of the Indians. They were, when complaints were substantiated, obliged to do right by their neighbors. On the other hand, it is evident, that when the Indians informed the magistrates of injurious treatment, prompt and speedy justice was done to them. It is evident that our ancestors did not undertake to apply and enforce their regulations upon the Indians living in a savage state, who had never acknowledged their jurisdiction.\* The white inhabitants and Indians, residing so near to each other, must have had daily intercourse, and been familiarly acquainted.

In June, 1675, when Philip's war broke out, there was a general alarm. Many transactions occurred afterwards to excite suspicion ; and this not merely in remote regions. Quabog, or Brookfield, was attacked and destroyed. Injury had been sustained at Northfield, Deerfield, Northampton, and Hatfield. It was understood that Philip himself was in this part of the country. What fortified places there were in the town, does not certainly appear. The old brick house, built by John Pynchon, Esq. before the year 1660, a great part of which is still standing, was used as a fort. The portico, and a part of the roof, have been removed. There is reason to believe there were one or two more forts south of the meeting house. It has also been said, that the south part of the town was palisadoed : probably not so as to afford very great security. The Indians who were on this side of the river, had their principal settlement on Longhill, where they had a fort. The place was admirably adapted to prevent surprise,

\*The difficulties in regard to governing the Indians within the local limits of the colony, must have been sensibly felt, very early. A letter of Mr. Pynchon's to governor Dudley, and the proceedings of council thereon, published by the learned editor of Winthrop, in the appendix to the 2d volume, will show the sound principles which they adopted, leaving the independent tribes to their own laws and customs.

and was also well calculated for concealment. During the night of the third or fourth of October, three hundred of Philip's warriors were received into the fort, and there concealed by the Springfield Indians. Toto, a Windsor Indian, was informed of a plot to burn the town, and massacre the inhabitants. This he communicated to the people at Windsor, who, without delay, sent an express, to give the alarm here. This, at first, occasioned great consternation. The people here betook themselves to the forts, and took such measures for security, as they could, upon the emergency. The Springfield Indians, however, appeared as usual, professed cordial friendship, and in a great degree, quieted the fears and alarms of the English. The Rev. Mr. Glover, who, with others, had retired to the fort, and had removed his library, and some of his valuable effects, to Mr. Pyncheon's, upon finding all to be quiet, and nothing heard or seen of an enemy, moved back his library to his own house. The Indians lay perfectly still and concealed. Some of the English, however, were not satisfied ; and in the morning of October 5th, Lt. Thomas Cooper, and Thomas Miller, went out as scouts, to examine and explore the fort and Indian settlement. While advancing towards it, they were both fired upon and killed. Mr. Cooper being very athletic and vigorous, got into one of the forts before he expired.

An assault upon the town immediately followed. Three men and one woman were killed, including the two above named. About thirty dwelling houses, and twenty five barns, were destroyed. The mills, and house of correction, or gaol, were also burnt ; but the old meeting house was preserved.

The Indians retreated before they had completed the work of destruction. That so few lives were lost, was very extraordinary. The colonial governments of Massachusetts and Connecticut had a considerable force in this quarter. But apprehending the danger to be farther north, they had established their head quarters at Hadley, and no troops were then stationed here.

John Pyncheon, Esq. who had been commander in chief in Massachusetts, had a day or two before, resigned the command. At his urgent request, Capt. Samuel Appleton had been appointed, and while in Massachusetts, according to the terms of the confederacy of the united colonies, would have the chief command. It is supposed Mr. Pyncheon was at Hadley, when the attack took place. Major Treat, who commanded the Connecticut forces, received orders to march into Connecticut, to protect their towns. It has been supposed he was at Westfield, on his way, when the alarm was given ; but it would seem by Appleton's letters, that he was left at Hadley, when Appleton came to Springfield with a



large force, as he did, upon information of the attack. The Indians, however, retired, and the English forces were not able to come up with them, though they immediately pursued.

The dismay, horror and confusion of such a scene as presented itself to our ancestors, we cannot conceive ; but it may be more easily conceived than described. The most of the inhabitants, though conversant with the Indians, knew as little of war, and especially of Indian wars, as we do. They had known the Indians only as friends and peaceable neighbours. These circumstances give this attack all the shocking features of a civil war. The produce for the approaching winter had been gathered, and was destroyed. There are three original accounts of this transaction, which I have seen. The first is contained in a letter from John Pynchon, to his son, then in England : the second is the official report of Capt. Appleton, to the governor : and the third, by Jonathan Burt, written in a blank leaf of a record book of the town. They all represent the distress and consternation, as very great : They all breathe a spirit of piety, and an acknowledgement of the interposition of divine providence, not often to be found in these days. The whole accounts are interesting ; but I must content myself with extracts. Mr. Pynchon writes as follows :

SPRINGFIELD, Oct. 20, 1675.

*Dear son Joseph,*—The sore contending of God with us, for our sins, and unthankfulness for former mercies, and unfruitfulness under our precious enjoyments, hath evidently demonstrated that he is very angry with this country. God having given the heathen a large commission to destroy his people, and exceeding havoc they made in this end of the country, destroying two or three great places above Northampton and Hadley, and lately they have fallen upon Springfield, and almost ruined it by burning of houses. About 30 or 32 dwelling houses all burnt down, and some twenty five barns full of corn and hay. The Lord hath spared my dwelling house ; but my barns, and outhousing all burnt down, and all my corn and hay consumed ; and not any thing have I left of food either for man or beast. All my mills, both corn mills and saw mills, burnt down those at home in this town, and also those I had in other places.—So that God hath laid me low—I am really reduced to great straits. \* \* \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \* How God may dispose of us I know not. We are yet here at Springfield. My house garrisoned with soldiers and full of troubles and hurries.——I am not able to afford you any help, but by my prayers, which I am always putting up for you ; and as God shall enable shall be ready to do to

my utmost otherwise. The Lord in mercy be good to you and us ; how he may deal with us I know not. Where his Providence may cast me, whether to Boston, or further on, whether I may live to get out of this place is only with himself. \* \* \*

The official letter of Mr. Appleton discloses some particulars not before published. It is addressed to governor Leverett, and dated October 12, 1675. He was at Hadley when he wrote. It contains the following :

“As to the state of poor desolate Springfield, to whose relief we came [though with a march that had put our men into a most violent sweat and was more than they could well bear,] too late. Their condition is indeed most afflicted, there being about thirty three houses and twenty five barns burnt, and about *fifteen houses left unburnt*. The people are full of fear, and staggering in their thoughts as to their keeping or leaving of the place. \* They whose houses and provisions are consumed, incline to leave the place as thinking they can better labour for a living in places of less danger, than where they now are. Hence seem unwilling to stay except they might freely share in the corn and provision which is remaining and preserved by the sword. I cannot but think it conducive to the public, and for ought I see to the private interest that the place should be kept ; there being corn and provision enough and to spare for the sustenance of the persons whose number is considerable and cannot be maintained elsewhere without more than almost any place can afford to their relief. The worth of the place is also considerable and the holding of it will give encouragement and help to others and the quitting of it great discouragement and hazard to our passage from one place to another ; it being so great a distance from Hadley to any other town on this side of the river. I have in regard of the present distress of the poor people adventured to leave Capt. Sill there to be ordered by the Hon’d. Maj’r. till further order. \* \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* In the account of Springfield houses we only presented the number of them on the east side of the river and that in the town plat for in all, on the west side and in the outskirts on the east side, there are about sixty houses standing and much corn in and about them.”

In another letter, dated October 17, 1675, he says : “By a letter from Major Pynchon, I am informed of an old Indian Squaw taken at Springfield, who tells that the Indians, who burnt that town lodged about six miles of the town. Some men went forth, found twenty four fires, and some plunder. She saith there came

of the enemy 270, that the enemy are in all about 600. The place where they keep is at Coassitt as is supposed about fifty six miles above Hadley."

Mr. Burt's account is short. "On the 5th day of October, 1675, a day to be kept in memory of posterity, when the barbarous heathen made an assault on this poor towne, killed two men, and a woman and wounded several, one of which died soon after, burnt down 29 dwelling houses and barnes, and much corn and hay. But God did wonderfully preserve us or we had been a prey to their teeth. God in his good providence, so ordered it that an Indian gave intelligence of the enemie's designs to fall on this towne, whereby we escaped with our lives for which we should give God the glory. Jonathan Burt an eye witness of the same."

A short time after this, October 14th, an attack was made upon Hatfield, but was soon repelled by Appleton's forces.

The council, in answer to Capt Appleton's letter, by their communication dated October 15th, say: "We are very sensible of the great loss sustained at Springfield, and are of the same opinion with you that it is not advisable to have it deserted, and would hope that the inhabitants of almost one *hundred* houses would be able to defend the maine of the remainder while the enemy is abroad."

It has been supposed that Major Treat, with the Connecticut forces, was passing through Westfield, at the time of the attack on Springfield, and came to their relief. Appleton's official letter, however, is different. He says, in his letter of October 12th, already quoted, "that upon a report of Indians lower down above Hartford he was, while I was absent, [when he came to Springfield] recalled by the council of Connecticut upon the *eighth* of this instant and is not yet returned, nor do I know how it is with him nor when he is like to return." If Treat had been at Springfield between the 5th and 12th, Appleton would have seen him, and mentioned the fact.

The people here were kept in fear, and frequently alarmed. No very extensive injury was done. Two or three persons were killed. At a later period Skipmuck suffered considerably, and Benjamin Wright was taken captive. The people were so much disposed to abandon and desert their settlements, that Mr. Appleton found it necessary, by general orders, as commander in chief, to issue a proclamation, dated November 12th, 1675, to prohibit the inhabitants of Springfield, Westfield, Northampton, Hadley, and Hatfield, from removing, without liberty from him; and any person found without a pass signed by him, was to be taken up and confined. This prohibition was approved by the General Court.

An allowance was made by the General Court, to Springfield, by an abatement in the rates, for the great loss it had sustained, and the straights put to, of £150. Northampton was also abated £18 12s. 6d. ; and Hadley £9 3s. 4d. Major Pynchon was remunerated £128, by him disbursed, and his expenses, £30. Notwithstanding the severe loss sustained from this attack of the Indians, the town evidently soon revived, and the number of inhabitants increased.

The treacherous conduct of the Indians here led to their extermination. In the course of the war, many were undoubtedly destroyed. The most of the survivors, in the course of a few years, removed to the westward. A few, and but a few, remained, and disposed of their lands. The land on Longhill, and on the side of Aggawain meadows, was taken possession of by right of conquest. Longhill was then called Forthill, and was after this granted by the town, and English settlements formed there. Indeed, this was through the country, to a great extent, a war of extermination. The severity exercised by the government towards the Indians, especially those that remained peaceable, and did not unite with Philip, cannot be justified. Elliott, the Indian apostle, made great exertions to protect his praying, or christian Indians, but his efforts were to a great degree vain. The Indians and squaws were sent away, June 24, 1675. At first, they were placed upon certain islands, and afterwards, by an order of the General Court, passed May, 1677, those which were in Massachusetts proper, exclusive of Plymouth colony, were to be confined to four plantations ; Natick, Punkepaug (Stoughton,) Wassanemesit (Grafton,) and Wamesit (Tewksbury.) Gookin, in his accounts, enumerates in 1674, 1100. In Plymouth colony, they were more numerous, and less rigorously treated. A vigilant superintendence was kept over them, after they were confined in those towns.

Seldom have any of the remnants of the Indians been seen here by any now living, unless when transiently passing through the town, from the west ; and those that have been here were, probably, of the Mohegan, or Grafton tribes. Their degraded and miserable condition cannot fail to draw a sigh from every benevolent bosom.\*

Before the Indians had been subdued, an enemy, in many respects, more formidable, was setting itself in array against the colony. The king of England manifested a determination to seize upon, and vacate the charter. This had been several times

\*A company of the Stockbridge Indians passed through this town, at the commencement of the revolutionary war, on their way to Roxbury.

threatened : but in the year 1683, a process of *quo warranto* was served. The consequence of a judgment in favor of the king, would have been to annul all proceedings under it ; and to revest all the land within the colony, in the king's hands. But in order to quiet the people, and render the measure less unpopular, the process contained an express provision, that the private interests of individuals should be preserved, and no man receive any prejudice in his freehold or estate. Judgment was the next year given in favor of the Crown, and the charter vacated.

Before judgment was given upon the *quo warranto*, at least before it was known here, some important measures were taken in this and some other towns, to obviate the effect of annulling the charter. The town, though Enfield, Suffield, and Westfield, had been made separate towns, contained large quantities of common and undivided lands. These the town claimed to hold and dispose of, as they thought proper. Probably not one tenth part of the land had been sold or divided. None of the pine plains or hills, had been granted. The tradition has always been, that the measure I am about to state, was taken in order to make the property the estate of individuals, to protect it from seizure. In February, 1685, but dated 1684, the town, in full meeting, passed a vote, that all lands on the east boundaries of the town, through the whole length of it, from north to south, extending on the east side of the river, four miles west, and on the west side extending east to boundaries particularly named, should be, and thereby were, granted to each [then] present inhabitant, his heirs and assigns, forever, according to certain proportions then stated. This afterwards formed the outward commons, including the greater part of Wilbraham, and Ludlow, on the east, and a great part of West Springfield, on the west side of the river. The lands were to be laid out in five divisions, and every inhabitant to have an allotment in each of them. This was extremely inconvenient, and as between the different inhabitants of the town, a very impolitic and unjust division.\* A man with a small property, would have assigned to him five lots, each three or four miles long, and perhaps only a rod wide.

It is hardly to be conceived that this course could have been pursued, had there not been some urgent and pressing necessity for it. Soon after this vote, the proprietors assumed the management of that land. The separate allotment of it was not completed for many years after : the last was in 1740. The records of these proprietors and their proceedings, are not in a good state of

\*Appendix M.

preservation. Probably, some of the original minutes may be lost. These lands lying so inconvenient to make farms, and it being very difficult to acquire all the titles, is, beyond question; a prominent reason for their being settled so much later than other parts of the town. At the time when the order above mentioned was made, it was in town meeting agreed, that all the common lands not included in the former vote, on both sides of the great river, should be to, or lie common to the [then] present inhabitants, their heirs and assigns forever; and not to be granted out at any time, but by the joint consent of the inhabitants, in town meeting, orderly called.

Resting upon this vote, the same persons who were made proprietors of the outward commons, undertook to hold meetings, and make grants of land, not in town meeting, but by the name of the proprietors of the inward commons. The town, indeed, after this, from time to time, granted out particular allotments, without opposition. In the year 1703, the town made extensive grants to the inhabitants of Longmeadow, on the town street, and of the lands east of it.

However, after sometime, the proprietors of the inward commons, in 1721, proceeded to allot a part of the common lands, apportioning them by the rule given in the vote of 1685. This excluded from any share in them, those who had removed into the town after that period, though present at the time of division. Occasional complaints were made, and when they could not be stifled, the proprietors would make grants, to quiet troublesome individuals.

Perhaps it is not easy to determine what the precise meaning of the town was, by their vote. They meant to protect the land from forfeiture, and designed, also, that it should remain common. After the inward common grants were made, the town confirmed and ratified their proceedings. The books of the proceedings of both sets of proprietors, so far as they are known to exist, are with the town clerk. A second allotment was made by the proprietors in 1740, by a new rule, embracing nearly 400 persons. A third was made in 1754, by a different ratio, and including 544 persons.

The exact situation of the land which the first settlers allotted here, before they altered it by cultivation, cannot be ascertained. As well from the appearance of the ground at present, as from the town records, it seems that the town brook, in its natural state, ran by the side of the meadows, through the town street, in the course in which it now runs. The vegetable matter dug up out of the meadow, shews that there was once a quantity of pine or hemlock timber, which covered the meadow east of the brook. Hemlock roots are now to be found in many parts of the meadow. There

is a tradition that the land on the hill, westward of Goose pond, had a very large and heavy growth of oak timber upon it ; that very large timber for the first or second meeting house, was cut therefrom. For many years past, it has given no evidence of having ever been oak or timber land. If it ever produced oak, the soil must have been greatly weakened and almost destroyed, by repeated burnings. But there is great reason to doubt whether the land near the town, was at first very heavily timbered. An early ordinance, made in 1647, for the preservation of the timber, notices the very great scarcity of timber for *building*, *sawing*, and for *shingles* ; and prohibits the carrying it out of town, to any other place. The prohibition to extend from Chicopee river to Fresh-water brook, and to extend from Connecticut river six miles east. It may be fairly inferred, that when this order was made, the growth on the plains was sparse.

I have already observed, that the manner of cultivating the cleared lands, was by throwing them into a common field, inclosing them with a general fence. This mode of cultivation, though probably the only one they could at first adopt, produced much dispute in regard to fences, cattle and swine. Some contending that cattle should be restrained to a later period, and others, that they should go into the fields early in the season. Gates were set up and maintained on the three passages to the river, at the upper, middle and lower wharves, and persons appointed to take charge of them. Common fields existed here before there were any statutes to regulate them.

I believe there is not under the colony charter, any record in the town books, of the choice of a deputy to the General Court. It is certain that they were generally chosen and attended. I have been at a loss to account for this omission. It is conjectured, however, that in this choice of a deputy, a magistrate presided. The Pynchons, father and son, were magistrates during the whole time. They presided in the election and kept the record of the choice. In fact, I find that in Mr. Pynchon's record book, these elections are, some of them, entered. Many other proceedings of the town are to be found only in that book.

By the colony law, towns might choose a deputy either from their own town, or from another, and either for one session of the General Court, or for a year. This town, when there was no special reason for sending a member, elected one from Boston or its vicinity. By inspecting the records of the General Court, it appears that this was frequently the case. It is, therefore, not always to be inferred from a man's being a representative of the town, that he belonged to it. It is apparent that the town consider-

ed the sending of a deputy every year, and twice a year, a burden. His expenses and his wages were to be paid by the town. There are charges in the accounts against the town, for a horse for the deputy to the Bay, and for horse keeping ; also, for the deputy's diet, and his wages. On several occasions, leave was given by the Court that he might be absent the second session. From the frequent recurrence of the grant of £4, for the deputy, I conjecture that this was the sum paid for one from Boston or its vicinity.

The municipal regulations which were very early adopted here, were very various and extensive. They embraced many things which were afterwards provided for by general statutes. In some cases, they probably were but transcripts of the laws ; and it is not always easy to separate those that were merely local, from those extending through the whole colony. The distance of this place from the seat of government at Boston, and the difficulty of access to it, made it more important that they should have a system of their own. These regulations were adopted from time to time, from their first fixing on this spot. They were reduced to a system February 5, 1650\* ; but the date on the record is 1649. As they improved their lands so extensively in common, without partition fences, which I have already noticed, many of their regulations relate to fences, to the time and manner of pasturing their cattle, and the preventing of damage by swine. Probably, these are not so interesting as some other parts of their bye-laws. Among their regulations, were three for security against fire ; requiring each householder to have a ladder annexed to his house, to have his chimney swept, at stated periods, and a general prohibition against carrying fire abroad uncovered ; and penalties were annexed to the violation of these rules. Ignorant of their situation, on a cursory examination, we should, at the present day, be tempted to conclude they had been transcribed from the rules of some city, or populous town, without regard to the propriety of adopting them. But when the fact is known, that their houses and barns, and other buildings, were all covered with thatch ; that their chimneys were wooden frames, covered with mortar ; that girdled and dry trees, and wild thatch, and other wild grass, were scattered about their roads and fields ; the urgency of such regulations will be very apparent. There are others, which, at this day, appear quite as extraordinary ; but we may not have as good grounds to judge of their propriety : whereas, if we knew all the inducements to establish them, they might evince their wisdom and prudence.

\*See Appendix N.



While there were a very few inhabitants, (only thirteen names being mentioned) they built a house for the Rev. Mr. Moxon ; and in March 20, 1638, passed the following order : "that in consideration of certayne charges which the present inhabitants have been at for Mr. Moxon's house, and fensing his lott such as shall for future tyme come to inhabite in ye place shall beare a share in the like charges in proportion with ourselves." It seems they considered this as a permanent benefit, and that those that came after them ought to bear a share of the burden.

Several of the very early regulations indicate an anxiety about the scarcity of timber. There is one which not only shews this, but also what extent they appropriated for settling lots. October 17, 1638, "it is ordered, [I presume by the selectmen,] with the consent of the plantation, that from this day forward, noe trees shall be cut down, or taken away, by any man, in the compass of ground from the Mill river upward, to John Reader's lott [which by the original agreement, was the most northerly,] which parsell of ground is appoynted for house lotts ; and in case any man shall trespass, contrary to this order, he shall be liable to the fine of five shillings."

Some other of the early regulations will better shew the state of society, than any description.

November 23, 1638. "It is ordered that a foot path and stiles be allowed at every man's lotts end next the greate river."

February 14, 1639. "It is ordered that it shall be lawful for any inhabitant to fell any canoe trees and make them for his own use or for the use of any inhabitant, yt grow on ye common but not to sell or any ways pass away any cannoe out of ye plantation untill it be *five years old* and in case any shall transgress this order after this day he shall be lyable to a fine of twenty shillings."

"It is also ordered yt it shall be lawfull for any man to put over horse, cowes or younger cattell on the other side of the river at the *first* of November *and to take them away thence on the 14th of April*, and if any shall trespass this order he shall be lyable to pay any damadges that shall appear to be done by his cattayle."

"It is ordered that all yt have a ditch by the highway before their doors shall keep it well scoured for the ready passage of the water that it may not be pent up to flowe the meddowe." [The importance of this will appear, when it is considered that the settlement was on the margin of a marsh, and any obstruction in the water course would be extensively injurious.]

November 14, 1639. "It is mutually agreed on by the plantation that ye sealed Peck which Mr. Pynchon hath shall be the ordinary peck to bye and sell by in the plantation, and whoever

will may repayre to the constable and have his peck sealed paying him 2d. for his labor with ye seal."

"It is also ordered, yt ye exercise of trayning shall be practiced one day, in every month ; and if occasions doe sometimes hinder then the like space of tyme shall be observed another tyme, though it be two days after one another. And yt this tyme of trayning is referred to ye discretion of Henry Smith, who is chosen by mutual consent to be *Serjeant* of the Company, who shall have power to choose a *Corporal* for his assistant. And whosoever shall absent himself without a lawful excuse, shall forfeit twelve pence, and yt all above 15 years of age shall be counted for soldiers and the time to begin the first Thursday in December next."

"It is also mutually agreed on, yt no person in this plantation, shall trade, give, or lend, to any Indian, any quantity of Powder, little, or greate, under ye penalty of 40s. for any tyme, yt any person shall be found a transgressor, in this kind."

There are many regulations of wages and labor. The earliest follows :

November 14, 1639. "It is also agreed for the ordering of laborers wages yt Carpenters shall have for 9 months 2s. 6d. per day and for 3 months from ye 10th of November to the 10th of February 2s. per day. Mowers shall have 2s. 6d. per day. ~~Saw-ers~~ 6s. 6d. per C ft. they to fall and hewe and the owner to bring to the pitt. Also for husbandry or any ordinary labor to have 2s. per day for 9 months, only from the 24th of April till the 24th of June they are left to their liberty as men can agree with them and for ye other 3 months, viz from November 10th till February 10th, to have 18d. per day."

The above shews that there were no saw mills here ; and it seems this was the case some years after ; for a new order as to the wages of Sawyers, was made November 17, 1642. "For the ordering of Sawyers wages workmen of this nature shall saw henceforth at 3s. 8d. per C ft. for boards and 4s. 4d. per C ft. for slitworke, ye timber to be brought home to ye pit and hewn and made ready, and if said workmen shall sawe timber and sell the boards they shall not exceed the price of 5s. 6d. per C ft. provided that if the pit be made, within the place of distance, yt is betwixt Mr Pynchons house and Samuel Wrights it shall be accounted as in the town."

The license to fell canoe trees, without the consent of the plantation, was annulled, April 16, 1640 ; and a penalty of 20s. imposed for every tree felled without license.

May 1, 1645. It was "voted, with the consent of the plantation; that whosoever shall take any mans canoe or vessel without his leave, shall be lyeable to the fine of 2s. 6d. for every such default."

January 8, 1646. "It is agreed by the plantation with John Matthews to beate the drum for the meetings for a years space at 10 *of the clock* on the *lecture* days and at 9 o'clock on the Lord's days, in the forenoons only, and he is to beate it from Mr. Moxons to R. Stebbins house, and ye meetings to begin within half an houre after, for which his payns, he is to have 4d. in *wampum* of every family in the town, or a peck of Indian corn if they have not *wampum*."

The rule of allotting and dividing the lands in the town, before the year 1685, is no where laid down, except what is stated in the original agreement, in 1636. A power was, however, given to persons designated from time to time, to admit inhabitants, and to make allotments of lands, according to the original agreement. This must have been done, in very many instances, without being entered on the town records. In regard to the greater part of the original settlers on the town street, the only evidence of their title is in the record of the town recorder; and there is commonly neither the date of the grant, nor the time of recording, mentioned upon record. The entry is usually in this form: "A. B. is by grant of the plantation, possessed of a house lot, 8 rods broad, and 80 rods long, extending from the street to the river, and of a piece of meadow opposite thereto, of equal breadth, extending east from the street, 40 rods, to the foot of the hill, and of a wood lot in the rear thereof, in the same direction, of the same breadth, extending east 80 rods; and also, of a lot over against his house lot, on the west side of the river, extending from the great river to Aggawam river, all bounded on the north by C. D. and on the south by E. F."

There were about forty original house lots granted on the town street. I have taken some pains to ascertain the names of the original settlers, and the order of their allotments.\* The grants were, probably, all made between the year 1636 and 1652. It is evident that many of those who had house lots, were not here for several years after the first settlement. In two rates made January, 1639, there are only 13 assessed. Two years afterwards, allotments of planting grounds were made to 17 persons; and in 1643, there were 22. In 1646, 42 persons were assessed to pay for the purchase of the Indians; and there were 6 vacant lots also assessed. In 1656, there were 52 who had taken the oath of fidelity. In 1664, there were recorded as admitted inhabitants, 74

\*See Appendix E.

persons. These were all that were in the different parts of the town.\*

When Mr. Moxon determined to leave the town, his real estate was purchased, and appropriated to the use of the ministry. After he left the country, many efforts were made to procure a settled minister. In the year 1655, the town voted that Mr. Thomson, "during his continuance a preaching minister in Springfield, should possess the ministry house and lot, bought of Mr. Moxon, for the time he should continue among them, in dispensing the word of God, and carrying on the place of a preaching elder"; and to give him £50 a year, and to increase it to £60. At this time, an order was made, that the rates should be assessed on the value of the property owned by each inhabitant. And further, it was concluded "that it is meete and requisite that every person should allow some maintenance to the ministry though not possessed of land or estate to rate him thereto, and therefore it was agreed that every person being at his own hand, and not a son or servant, who hath noe land, or estate, or whose land or estate doth not amount to 5s. in the year in the rate, that every such person should be liable to pay to the ministers maintenance five shillings per annum."

The next year, Mr. Thomson left the place, and a committee was appointed to devise means to procure a minister; and in the mean time it was voted by the town, "that whereas Deacon Wright on the Lord's day was chosen to dispense the word of God in this place, till some other should be got for that work, that Deacon Wright should have for his labor in that employment 50s. per month for such time as he attends on the work." Again, in November of the same year, a vote was passed "to allow Deacon Wright, Deacon Chapin, Mr. Holyoke, and Henry Burt, £12 for their past services in the Lord's work on the Sabbath, to be distributed by the selectmen; and that in future they would allow at the rate of £50 a year,† till such time as they should have a settled minister, to be distributed and ordered by the selectmen."

A similar course was taken the next year; and Mr. Holyoke and Henry Burt, were appointed to carry on the work of the Sabbath; and if they were disabled, Deacon Chapin was to supply their place. In November, 1657, Mr. Holyoke was made choice of, as the record expresses it, "to carry on the work of the Sabbath, once every Sabbath day, which he accepts of; Mr Pynchon is made choice of for one part of the day, once a fortnight,

\*Appendix D.

†This, I think, a handsome compensation for those days, and not a trifling sum. It was given for leading the devotional exercises, and reading a sermon on the Sabbath.

While there were, apparently, great exertions made to oblige children to attend meeting on the Sabbath, and to behave with decency and reverence during the time of public worship, and no small pains were taken to prevent their being out at unseasonable hours, or in improper company, I have not been able to find that so much attention was paid to schooling, as I had expected. A tract of land at the lower end of Chicopee plain, on the west side of the great river, was appropriated by the town, in the year 1654, "either for the helping to maintain a schoolmaster or ruling elder, or to help beare any other town charges." This land was many years let out, and the income expended in schooling. One of the turrets of the meeting house, was sometime occupied for a school room. The first school house was built in 1679. The house was 22 feet by 17; the studs were 8 1-2 feet, and there was a chamber in it. From ten to twelve pounds, were annually paid to a schoolmaster. The house was first erected in the way to the upper wharf; probably, with a view to accommodate scholars on the west side of the river, especially in the winter. This was afterwards removed, and rebuilt at the middle of the town, near where the first meeting house stood, but on the spot on which Daniel Lombard's store now stands.

Other schools were kept in the town, as the inhabitants increased in the different parts of it. An entry, of the following tenor, is made in the book of selectmen's orders, in the year 1682. "The selectmen agreed with Goodwife Mirrick to encourage her in the good work of training up children and teaching children to read that she should have 3*d*. a week for every child that she takes to perform this excellent work for." The defect of schooling, for the first forty years after the town was settled, is apparent, in the number of persons who could not write their names, and in the very great number of bad writers and spellers. From the commencement of the last century, provision has been made for supporting public schools; and with very short intermissions, a grammar school, as well as others, have been kept.

There is one other subject in the early history of the town, upon which information might be gratifying to the inhabitants—that of roads and bridges; and there is no one subject more involved in uncertainty. The town designated the selectmen, or other persons, to lay out highways and roads. For many years there was no county authority; and after county courts were established, the records for 30 or 40 years, are not to be found. A surveyor's compass was not used here, for the first 60 or 70 years. The monuments referred to in laying the roads, were most of them perishable. It is, therefore, very difficult to trace an old road,

unless it has been new laid. The road through the street, is only incidentally mentioned. It seems to have been the starting point, on which all the house lots were bounded. It was to extend from against Mr. Pyncheon's, downwards, 4 rods from the east side of the brook, till the brook passes into the meadow, opposite the house of widow Marble. This road was continued to, and through the Longmeadow. At first, only 40 rods of ground were reserved for the meeting house. In February, 1644, a purchase was made of two acres and a half, for a training place, which was afterwards appropriated for a burying ground, and is still used for that purpose ; and two rods were appropriated to go to the meeting house. This was, from time to time, enlarged. A road of one and a half rods, at first, was made to the training place, which was soon increased to two rods, and afterwards farther widened. The passages through the meadow, east of the street, were difficult, and it was long before they became very good. At first, there was an order that a highway, two rods wide, should be laid out through the *hassekey meadow*, where State street now is.

Among the duties of the surveyors, is designated that of making a horse way across the meadow, to the bay path ; and in the year 1648, it was "agreed by the town, that those who would join, to make a cart way there, should have liberty to bar it up, and to take 4*d.* a load of any that cart over that way who have not joined in making it."

I have not been able to find any trace of the laying out, or making of the road to the Bay, as it was called, or the road to Boston. That what is called the old bay road, was made and used very early, is very evident, from various occasional references to it, in the records.\* It is worthy of remark, that all the roads at and near the centre of the settlement, were made very narrow ; in some instances, only two rods wide, and in no case, exceeding four rods. But the roads at a distance from the settlement, were made, in several instances, twenty, in others ten, and in no case, less than eight rods wide. This is to be accounted for, only by a reference to their habits and customs. The streets in the centre were narrow, because they esteemed the land too valuable, or the difficulty of making wide roads too great, to be very broad ; and the roads more remote, were left wide to accommodate the inhabitants with pasturing. This reason is, in several instances, expressly assigned for laying the roads so broad. It was a part of their common law, whatever might be the opinion of *courts* and *lawyers*, that the inhabitants had a right to turn their

\*See Appendix O.

so great was the distance from the centre of the old parish, that in 1740, they were incorporated as the fourth parish in Springfield. This parish embraced only the second and third divisions of the outward commons. It was commonly known by the name of the mountain parish, or Springfield mountains. In the year 1741, they settled a minister, and in 1748, built a meeting house.

In the year 1750, the first parish being about to build a new meeting house, the former one not being large enough, the people in the north part of the town, on both sides of Connecticut river, were incorporated into a separate parish, by the name of the fifth, or Chicopee parish. The general boundary on the east side of Connecticut river, was Chicopee river. In 1742, a minister was settled, and soon afterwards, a meeting house built in that parish, on the east side of the river. In the year 1757, the south west part of the town was made a parish, by the name of the sixth parish. This included what is now Aggawam, or Feedinghills; and in 1762, a minister was settled there. The same provision was then made with regard to the taxation of the lands in the meadows, or common field, as had been adopted when the second parish was incorporated.

In the year 1763, the eastern part of the town, including the mountain parish and half a mile west of it, was made a district by the name of Wilbraham, having all the powers of a town, excepting the privilege of sending a representative, in which they were to unite with Springfield.

For many years, the town had existed in great harmony, and as few local or sectional dissensions and jealousies appeared, in the transaction of public business, as are ever found. The public business was transacted at the centre of the first parish, and generally, the public officers chosen from the various parts of the town. The public town offices were all kept at the centre of the first parish. For some years, however, before the year 1773, it was apparent that the seeds of dissention were sown; and they sprung up from time to time. The method of dividing the school money, the plan of holding town meetings, and of keeping the grammar school, were subjects of contest. The parish of Longmeadow, and those on the west side of Connecticut river, united against the first parish. Chicopee was divided. In transacting the ordinary town business, parties were nearly balanced: commonly there was a small majority against the first parish. In choosing representatives, Wilbraham united with the first parish, and made a majority. Contention, whenever any efforts were made to transact town business, became constant and violent. For a year or two, the town meetings were holden on the west side of the river, and the town

records kept there. In one instance, when the choice of municipal officers was attempted, after spending four days, only a part of them were chosen.

It was very evident that the inhabitants could not proceed harmoniously together. Probably, all parties were to blame. When a poll was required upon every vote, a permanent session, to transact the business commonly done in one day, would be requisite. Various proposals were made, and at length, at the recommendation of the more moderate and judicious, from the various parts of the town, a vote was passed to submit the case to three impartial and respectable men, from a distance. They were the Hon. Erastus Wolcott, of Windsor; William Williams, of Hatfield; and Joseph Root, Esq. of ———. The referees met, and after a full hearing of all parties, they made known their judgment, that the town should be divided into two towns, by Connecticut river; stating the terms on which that division should be made, providing, as had been before done in regard to the parishes, that the lands in the common field, or meadow, should be taxed in the town in which the owner lived. They also recommended that the north east part of the town should be made into a separate town; and declared that it was not expedient that any other division should take place. When this report was made known to the town, it was, by a major vote, rejected; and the town determined to oppose such a division. Upon the petition of the first parish, the General Court, after a full hearing, carried into effect this report; and in February, 1773, West Springfield was incorporated into a separate town, upon the terms recommended. Ludlow was also made a separate town at the same time. Ludlow included all that part of the outward commons which lay northerly of Chicopee river, and all the land north of that river, extending one mile and an half west of the outward commons.

I have stated the facts in this case, because some have represented the transaction as an extraordinary one. It has been said, that the majority were set off into a new town, at the request of a minority. This is not true: Springfield then contained more inhabitants than West Springfield. The terms of division, especially as to the right of taxing, have been said to be unjust. Neither is this true: the land in the general field, owned on the east side of the river, were generally in the actual occupation of the owner; and in the mode of access, and cultivation, and getting the crops, usually practised, they passed through no other part of the town, and had no benefits of their roads, schools, &c. Excepting the inconvenience of passing the river, they were as near the owners, on the east side of the river, in many instances, as to the settle-



ments on the west. In many cases, the lands were laid out, and always occupied as appendages to the house lots on the east side of the river. That, including a part of the inhabitants on the east side of the river, a majority of the town were against a division, must be admitted.

The bitterness which this division occasioned, lasted for several years. An alteration was made in the law in regard to taxes, and I believe, the towns are now as much in peace as other towns. In the year 1783, Longmeadow was made into a separate town, by the parish lines.

During the revolutionary war, the town did not very much increase. It felt, in common with the country in general, the pressure of the struggle for independence. But in that period, a foundation was laid for much of its subsequent increase and present prosperity. In the time of the war, this was a recruiting post and a rendezvous for soldiers. Being centrally situated, easy of access, and at the same time so far inland as to be out of the reach of sudden invasions of the enemy, it was, early in the war, fixed upon as a suitable place for making and repairing the various munitions of war, and a depot for military stores. At first, the whole was confined to Main street. The various artificers employed, had their shops where they could find a convenient place, and resided themselves in that part of the town. The laboratory for cartridges, and for the various fire works manufactured on such occasions, was in the barn then owned by Ebenezer Stebbins, on the place now owned by Dr. Kingsbury, south of Festus Stebbins'. After two or three years, the public works were removed on to the hill, where they now are. This was done gradually, in the years 1778 and 1779, as accommodations could be found. At first, with the exception of the powder magazine, the whole of the public buildings were placed upon a square of ten acres, on the land appropriated by the town for a training field. A few cannon were cast here during that war, but no small arms were manufactured till after the peace of 1783. At the close of the war, the workmen employed were discharged, and the arsenals, magazine and shops, were left in the charge of a store keeper.

When the object of making arms was under consideration of the national government, in the year 1794, the convenience of the place, and the arsenals, magazines and shops, already here, were a sufficient inducement to establish the national armory here : This was done. At different periods since that time, lands have been purchased, and erections made, for the public accommodation. This establishment has, without question, been one great source of the prosperity of the town.

But, in the chequered scenes of life, we have presented to view some shade, as well as sunshine. The various transactions which took place here, in the attempt forcibly to prevent the execution of the laws, ought not to be unnoticed. Though it might be necessary and expedient, under the then existing circumstances, forcibly to stop the sitting of the courts of Justice, in the year 1774, yet it had a tendency, and in some instances produced the effect, to unhinge people's minds, and to generate a spirit of insubordination. The people, at the close of the revolutionary war, in this part of the country, were very heavily burdened. Their debts were great, and taxes enormous. The different times and occasions, when an armed and organized force was seen in our streets, to prevent the regular administration of justice, from the year 1783 to 1786, I shall not undertake to detail. I think, however, it would be improper to pass, without notice, some of the events connected with this town, that took place at what is called the insurrection, or Shay's insurrection. Passing over what had occurred before, in the winter of the year 1787, large bodies of men, were collected from various quarters, organized as a military force. Daniel Shays assumed the general command. From various quarters, the insurgents all seemed to be centred at Springfield. Shays himself, had the command of a large body collected eastward of this town. Luke Day had also a large force in West Springfield. A third party, under Eli Parsons, were at Chicopee. The object was, beyond doubt, to possess themselves of the military stores and arms, at the arsenal here. In arms and ammunition they were quite deficient. A considerable force, by order of government, under the command of Major General Shepard, was stationed at the stores, with orders to defend and protect them.

The plan of Shays was, that all three of these bodies should, from different quarters, at the same time, attack the troops at the arsenal. This was good policy; and had it been carried into effect, the town might have been destroyed, or greatly injured. Nothing so much like impending destruction, had taken place since the burning of the town, by the Indians. But the same kind Providence that had before mercifully interposed, now turned the wise counsel into foolishness. Shays sent a message to Parsons and Day, informing them that he should be at the stores, at an appointed hour of the next day, and requesting them to meet him there. Day, for some reason now unknown, or without reason, sent back, that he should not be ready to go that day, but would be there the next. Day's message was intercepted, and the messenger detained, though unknown to either of them.

At the time appointed, notwithstanding repeated cautions and assurances from Shepard, that his approach would be treated as a hostile attack, Shays with his party in close column, drew near the arsenal, and was fired upon by Shepard, and the party soon dispersed. Day and his party, in the meantime, were entirely ignorant of the proceedings here. Though the distance was not more than two miles, in a direct line, the firing of the cannon was not heard, or noticed, at West Springfield. The inhabitants of this town had most of them removed : many of them were, a second time, induced to flee in the dead of night ; but, in fact, there was no danger.

This was one of the most unpleasant occurrences in our history. To see brethren and neighbors in hostile array against each other, and a civil war commencing, was most distressing. Happily, it terminated without much bloodshed : and He who can bring good out of evil, so overruled it, that this insurrection aided to lead to the adoption of the Federal Constitution.

There is one other event in our history, which I may notice ; which is, the removal of all the courts from this place, to Northampton, in the year 1793. This town had, from the first settlement, been a place for the administration of justice. After the county was formed, a part of the courts had always been holden here. This event, it was supposed, would have an unfavorable effect upon the town. It was considered that the removal of courts from a place where they had long been holden, and where business was arranged with that view, would be prejudicial, even though it were admitted that the original establishment of them in a place might be injurious. It is difficult to determine what the actual consequences were ; for the Armory was first established the year after, and contributed to prevent any injurious effects from being apparent. The re-establishment of courts here, in 1813, shews very plainly, that the town has not sustained injury, by again becoming a shire town.

The agency which this town had in effecting the settlements about it, may possibly be better understood, by bringing them into one view. It appears from the records of the General Court, that the settlement at Northampton, was begun upon the petition of the inhabitants of Springfield, and others, in the year 1653. Mr. Pynchon and Mr. Holyoke, two of the petitioners, with Samuel Chapin, were appointed to lay out the lands at Marwolluck, or Nanatuck, for it is spelt both ways, either on the west side, or east side of the river, not appropriating more than 100 acres to one person. This was done, and in 1654, a report of the proceedings of the agents was made. They settled the west side of the

river. Whether there were many actual settlers removed thither from this place, I have not ascertained. Pynchon had, however, large grants of land there. He was the agent to buy of the Indians, and one of the superintendants of the plantation, for several years. Hadley, at first embracing both sides of the river, was in the course of a year or two afterwards, disposed of in the same way. In regard to Westfield, Enfield, and Suffield, the case was somewhat different. As these places were annexed to Springfield, and composed a part thereof, the town, from time to time, made grants of land to individuals.

As to Westfield, the earliest that I find of any grant, is January 7, 1655, when a grant was made to several persons, of lands at Woronoco; and the town agreed that the lands there should be rated only half so much as in the other parts of the town, for 6 years. In the year 1663, still farther, and more extensive grants were made there, both on the northerly and southerly side of the river, upon condition the grantees build and settle thereon, in one year, and reside there four years. Some of these grants were to persons from Windsor, but most of them from Springfield. That town was incorporated April 14, 1670. A committee was appointed by the town of Springfield, to lay it out, and grant out house lots. At first, it was only 6 miles square, or equivalent thereto, making the line 9 miles one way. This was confirmed by the General Court.

Several of the inhabitants of Springfield, had grants of land on the way to Windsor. The earliest that I find, is in the year 1664. In 1669, a number of grants were made. It is stated, that if it were well ordered and managed, the land about Stony river might make a *fine village*, or small plantation. In 1670, upon the petition of several inhabitants of Springfield, the court grant a tract of 6 miles square, for a plantation, or township; provided that in 5 years there be 20 families; and that they procure some able and faithful minister, and maintain him there. Mr. Pynchon and five other inhabitants of Springfield, were authorized to divide, allot and grant out the lands there.

Though grants of land by the town of Springfield, were made much earlier and more extensively at Freshwater, or Enfield, than at Suffield, it happened that Enfield was incorporated at a later period. This was done in the year 1683, upon the petition, as the record states, of Springfield proprietors, extending six miles down Connecticut river, from the mouth of Longmeadow brook, and easterly ten miles from the river. Major Pynchon and others, were authorized to grant out lots and admit inhabitants.

The order of the General Court, in regard to Norwottuck, [Hadley,] is worth noticing. It is stated, that "the persons peti-

tioning to remove into this colony, had begun to remove into Norwottuck, and made some beginning in regard to a plantation on the east side of the river, in order to a plantation, and that there are many desirable persons having a great wish to go along with them, who may in time be joined to that church ; for their further help in the ministry whereby they are enabled not only to carry on a town but church work also, the court grant their desire and appoint persons to lay out the town so as shall be most suitable for the cohabitation and full supply of those people, that this wilderness may be populated, and the main ends of our coming into these parts promoted."

In reviewing the history of the town, while there have been a good proportion of persons of respectable talents and education, I can point to no one who has attained the highest rank. John Pyncheon, Esq. may, perhaps, with one exception, be considered as more above his fellows, than any other of the inhabitants. He was born in England, and was a child when his father came to this country. Where he was educated, is to me unknown. He was distinguished in peace and in war. He seems to have been more employed as a negociator with the Indians, than any other one. He was long a magistrate and assistant, and many years a judge. Perhaps he was more confided in by the town, than any other man. In the town records, and also, in the county court records, he is spoken of in the style of "*the worshipful Major*," or "*the worshipful Major Pyncheon*." He died in this town, at an advanced age.

The exception made above, refers to the Hon. John Worthington. His education, and the circumstances of the country, were so extremely different from that of Mr. Pyncheon's, that it would be impossible to compare the two men. His talents, had he taken the popular and prevailing side, at the commencement of the revolution, would probably, have obtained for him the highest honors in the state.

The town has increased, not only beyond the ideas of the first associates, but far beyond the expectations of many of the present generation. By the last census, there were within the limits of the town, as it was in 1670, no less than 21,581 souls. Within the limits of the present town, by the

Census of 1791, there were 1,574

" 1800, " "

" 1810, " " 2,767

" 1820, " " 3,914

" May, 1827, " " 5,788

Probably, at this time, the population exceeds 6,000.

The increase of inhabitants is not more remarkable than the settlements eastward of the town brook. Persons now living, can remember when the number of dwelling houses on State street, were only seven, and three or four on Maple street, and not a single one on the hill. On Main street, there were but one or two houses east of the brook : the meadow had a few shops on its margin. The place where the Town Hall stands, was a deep marsh, and the water was frequently standing there in great depth.

To recur to the building of this house, with which I began. It ought to be recollected, that the town, more than a century since, contributed largely to building the old Court House, and had a right to use it for town purposes. That building being so small that it could not contain near all the legal voters in the town, it was manifestly proper that a suitable place should be provided. That this may long continue a place where the inhabitants may peaceably assemble, and transact their municipal concerns, is most fervently to be wished. In order to this, a most important duty devolves on you. In tracing the history of the town, from the first to the present hour, we may fairly claim that it has been as well united as almost any other place. Still there are some things which, on review, can afford no pleasure. There are some dark spots in the picture. If we wish to avoid the mistakes we, or those before us, have committed, and the faults of which we have been guilty, we must, in concert, seek the things which make for peace. Mutual concession must be made ; jealousies and heart-burnings must be suppressed. If a fire is seen to be kindling, it must, without delay, be quenched. One section of the town must not claim more than its fair proportion of advantage. The territory of the town is extensive, and the different sections must feel themselves to compose one whole, and seek, not the good of a particular neighborhood, but that of the whole town. A body so numerous as the voters in this town, cannot think alike, on all subjects. A readiness to give others the same privilege of expressing freely their opinions, which we claim for ourselves, is all-important. Efforts to keep order in ourselves, and others, are also requisite. Experience and observation have taught us how easily strife and angry passions may be excited, and it is the duty of all to avoid, as far as possible, the occasions of offence.

It is the right, and I believe, the duty of all, as far as they can, to attend town meetings. I would not go so far as to fine every one who was absent without excuse ; but it would be fair to insist that persons so situated, should not find fault with the doings of those who do attend.

Our great sources of expense, schools, highways, and the poor, will demand much, and faithful attention. In the first settlement of the country, our ancestors made them a public charge, and obliged every man, according to his ability, to contribute his proportion. Many plausible schemes have been devised, either for throwing off the burden altogether, or shifting it from those who ought to bear it. Were I authorized to advise, I should say,—“Stand ye in the ways ; see and ask for the old paths ; Where is the good way ? And walk therein.”

## APPENDIX.

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### [A.]

In a town so extensive as this, for after all that has been lopped off, it is about 10 miles by 7, it is remarkable that all local interests were so far given up as to induce an agreement to build a Town Hall, with great unanimity: There were other interests, and conflicting claims and jealousies, quite as difficult to keep quiet, as those resulting from local situation. Probably the plan which was adopted, was the only feasible one. The building proposed to be erected, was, of necessity, to be large, or it could not accommodate the town. The town did not require for their use, more than one floor. The Masonic bodies in the town were desirous of erecting for themselves, a spacious Hall. From the situation of the ground, it was convenient to have the Town Hall above the basement story: it was therefore proposed to have a range of stores under the Town Hall, and to have the Masons contribute towards the building, according to the accommodation they should have; and that the persons who should contract to build, should have the cellar and basement story, towards a compensation for building. In addition to this, the old Town House was to be disposed of, to the first parish, to procure a title to the ground on which the Hall was to stand. These various interests were brought to unite in the object, and assurances made to secure their respective rights, and the whole completed without accident or contention. The corner stone was laid with appropriate Masonic ceremonies, and addresses made on the occasion. The building was completed February, 1828.

### [B.]

The tradition with regard to building first in Housemeadow, is rendered nearly certain, by an entry in the registry of deeds, made



Lib. B. Fol. 20, by John Holyoke, the register, in the year 1679. In a note explaining the terms of an Indian deed, he says, "*Agaam*. It is that meadow on the south of Agawam River, where the English did first *build a house*, which we now, commonly call the house meadow, that piece of ground it is which the Indians do call Agawam and there the english kept their residence, who first came to settle and plant at Springfield now so called." From the expressions here used, "kept their residence," it seems that a house must have been built there ; and probably those who came in 1635, lodged there till they went back in the fall.

## [C.]

"May the 14th, 1636. We, whose names are underwritten, being by God's Providence, ingaged together to make a plantation, at and over against *Agaam* on Conecticot doe mutually agree to certayne articles and orders to be observed and kept by us and by our successors, except wee and every of us, for ourselves and in oure persons, shall think meet uppon better reasons to alter our present resolutions.

"1ly. Wee intend, by God's grace, as soon as we can, with all convenient speede, to procure some Godly and faithfull minister, with whome we purpose to joyne in church covenant, to walk in all the ways of Christ.

"2ly. Wee intend, that our towne, shall be composed of fourty familys, or if wee think meete after, to alter our purpose ; yet not to exceed the number of fifty familys rich and poore.

"3ly. That every inhabitant shall have a convenient proportion for a house lott, as we shall see meete for every ones quality and estate.

"4ly. That every one, that hath a house lott, shall have a proportion of the Cow pasture to the north of End brook, lying northward from the town ; and also that every one shall have a share, of the *hasseky marish* over agaynst his lott, if it be to be had, and every one to have his proportionable share of all the woodland.

"5ly. That every one, shall have a share, of the meddow, or planting ground, over against them as nigh as may be, on *Agaam* side.

"6ly. That the Longmeddowe, called Masacksick, lying in the way to *Dorchester*,\* shall be distributed to every man, as wee shall think meete, except wee shall find other conveniences, for some for theyre milch cattayle, and other cattayle also.

"7ly. That the meddowe and pasture called, *Nayas* towards Patuckett, on ye side of *Agaam*, lyeinge about fower miles above

\*The way to Dorchester was, probably, to Windsor, then called Dorchester.

in the ridge shall be distributed" [erasure of six and a half lines,]  
 "as above said in the former order, and this was altered and with  
 consent before the hands were set to it.

"8ly. That all rates that shall arise upon the town, shall be layed  
 upon lands, according to every ones proportion, aker for aker, of  
 howse lotts, and aker for aker of meddowe, both alike on this side,  
 and both alike on the other side ; and for farmes, that shall lye  
 farther off, a less proportion, as wee shall after agree except wee  
 shall see meete to remitt one half of the rate from land to other  
 estate.

"9ly. That whereas Mr. William Pynchon, Jehue Burr, and  
 Henry Smith, have constantly continued to prosecute the same, at  
 greate charges, and at greate personal adventure, therefore, it is  
 mutually agreed, that fourty acres of meddowe, lying on the south  
 of End brooke, under a hill side, shall belonge to the said partys  
 free from all charges forever. That is to say twenty akers, to Mr.  
 William Pynchon, and his heyres and assigns forever, and ten  
 akers to Jehue Burr, and ten akers to Henry Smith, and to their  
 heyres and assigns forever. which said forty akers is not disposed  
 to them as any allotment of towne lands : but they are to have  
 their accommodations in all other places notwithstanding.

"10ly. That whereas a house was built at a comon charge which  
 cost £6 and also the Indians demand a grate some, to bye their  
 right, in the said lands, and also a grate shallope, which was re-  
 quisite for the first planting, the value of which engagements, is to  
 be borne by each inhabitant, at theyre first entrance, as they shall  
 be rated by us till the said disbursements shall be satisfied, or  
 else in case the said howse and boat be not so satisfied for ; then  
 so much meddow to be sett out, about the said howse as may coun-  
 tervayle the sayd extraordinary charge.

"11ly. It is agreed that no man except Mr. William Pynchon  
 shall have above ten acres for his house lot.

"12ly. Anulled.

"13ly. Whereas there are two Cowe pastures, the one lying to-  
 wards Dorchester, and the other Northward, from End brooke.  
 It is agreed that both these pastures shall not be fed at once ; but  
 that the time shall be ordered by us, in the disposing of it for  
 tymes and seasons, till it be lotted out and fenced in severalty.

"14ly. May 16, 1636. It is agreed that after this day, wee  
 shall observe this rule, about dividing of planting ground, and med-  
 dowe, in all planting ground, to regard chiefly, persons, who are  
 most apt to use such ground. And in all meddowe, and pasture,  
 to regard chiefly, cattel and estate, because estate is like to be im-  
 proved in cattel and such ground is aptest for their use. And yet  
 wee agree that no person, that is master of a lott, though he hath  
 not cattel, shall have less than three acres, of planting ground, and  
 none that have cowes, steeres, or year olds, shall have under one

acre a piece, and all horses, not less than four akers, and this order in dividing meddow by cattell, to take place the last of May next, soe that all cattayle that, then appeare, and all estates, that shall then truly appeare, at £20, a Cow shall have this proportion in the medowe, on Agawam side, and in the large meadow, Massacksick, and in the other long meddowe called Nayas, and in the pasture at the north end of the town called End brook.

"15ly. It is ordered, that for the disposing, of the hassaky marish, and the granting of homelots, these five men undernamed, or theyre Deputys, are appoynted, to have full power, namely, Mr. Pynchon, Mr. Michell, Jehue Burr, William Blake, Henry Smith.

"It is ordered that William Blake, shall have sixteen polle, in bredth for his homelott, and all the marsh in bredth abuttinge at the end of it, to the next highland, and three acres more, in some other place.

"Next the lott of William Blake, Northward lys the lott of Thomas Woodford, being twelve polls broad, and all the marish before it to the upland. Next the lott of Thomas Woodford, lys the lott of Thomas Ufford, beinge fourteen rod broad, and all the marish before it to the upland. Next the lott of Thomas Ufford, lyes the lott of Henry Smith, being twenty rod in breadth, and all the marish before it, and to run up in the upland on the other side to make up his upland lott ten acres.

"Next the lott of Henry Smith, lyes the lott of Jehue Burr, being twenty rods in breadth, and all the marish in bredth abuttinge, at the end of it, and as much upland ground on the other side as shall make up his lott ten acres.

"Next the lott of Jehue Burr, lys the lott of Mr. William Pynchon, beinge thirty rod in bredth, and all the marish at the east end of it, and an addition, at the further end, of as much marish, as make the whole twenty foure acres ; and as much upland adjoining, as makes the former howse lott, thirty acres in all togeather fifty foure acres.

"Next the lott of Mr. Pynchon, lyes the lott of John Cabel, fowreteene rod, in breadth, and fowre acres and halfe of marish at the end of his lott.

"Next the lott of John Cable, lys the lott of John Reader, beinge twelve rod in breadth and fowre acres and a halfe in marish at the fore end of his homelot.

"The lotts of Mr. Matthew Michell, Samuel Butterfield, Edmund Wood, and Jonas Wood, are ordered to lye, adjoining to mill brooke, the whole being to the number of twenty five acres, to begin three of them on the greates river, and the fowrth on the other side of the small river.

"It is ordered that for all highways, that shall be thought necessary, by the five men, above named, they shall have liberty and power, to lay them out, when they shall see meete, though it be at the end of mens lotts, giving them allowance for so much ground,

"We testife to the order abovesaid being all of the first adventurers and undertakers for this Plantation.

WILLIAM PYNCHON,           The mark T of THOMAS  
MATH. MITCHELL,           UFFORD,  
HENRY SMITH,               JOHN CABEL."

The mark | of JEHU BURR,  
WILLIAM BLAKE,  
EDMUND WOOD,

This is in the hand writing of Henry Smith, except the two concluding lines, in Mr. Pynchon's hand.

[D.]

There is no evidence, from the town records, that Mr. Mitchell, the two Woods, Blake, Ufford, Reader, Woodford, or Butterfield, remained here any time. When they went, I have no information. From the title given to Mitchell, "Mr. Matthew Mitchell," he must have been a man of some note. Jehu Burr, called by some historians, *John Burr*, from a mistake in reading the old writing, was a carpenter. He was here in Jan. 1639. When a voluntary rate was made for Mr. Moxen's house, he paid a larger sum than any other, except Mr. Pynchon. In January, 1642, he seems to have left the place. A person of that name appears on the Connecticut records as a magistrate or deputy.

*A list of the inhabitants of Springfield, from 1636, to 1664, and the time of their coming.*

	REMOVED.		
1636	William Pynchon 1652	1640	Elizur Holyoke
	Henry Smith 1653		William Warriner
	*William Blake	Jan.	Henry Burt
	*Edmund Wood	1641-2	Rowland Stebbins
	*Thomas Ufford		Thomas Stebbins
	John Cabel 1641		Samuel Wright
	*Matthew Mitchell		Richard Sikes
	*Samuel Butterfield	1642-3	John Deeble
	*James Wood		Samuel Chapin
	*John Reader	April	Morgan Johns
	*Thomas Woodford 1639	1643.	Thomas Cooper
1638	John Searle		James Bridgman
	Richard Everitt		Alexander Edwards
	Thomas Horton		*John Dobie
	Rev. George Moxon 1652	May,	Roger Pritchard
1639	Thomas Mirrick	1644.	Francis Ball
	John Leonard	1645	John Harmon
	Robert Ashley		*William Vaughan
	John Woodcock 1642		*William Jess
	John Allin		Miles Morgan
	John Burt		*Abraham Mondon
	Henry Gregory		Francis Pepper
1640	Samuel Hubbard		*John Burrhall
			Benjamin Cooley

Jan.	John Matthews	1653-4	Obadiah Miller
1645-6	George Colton		Abel Wright
	Joseph Parsons	1656	Hugh Dudley
Nov.	John Clarke		William Brooks
1646	James Osborne		Simon Beamon
	Thomas Rieve		Samuel Terry
	Widow Margaret Bliss		John Lamb
	Nathaniel Bliss		Benjamin Mun
	Thomas Tomson		*John Stewart
	Richard Exell		Thomas Bancroft
	William Branch		Thomas Noble
	Griffith Jones		*Richard Maund
	Reice Bedortha		Thomas Gilbert
	Hugh Parsons	1658	Simon Sacket
	John Lombard	1659	Richard Fellows
	*John Scarlet		Rev. Peletiah Glover
	George Langton		*Taban Grant
	Lawrence Bliss		Nathaniel Ely
	Samuel Bliss		Samuel Ely
	John Bliss	1660	John Keep
1651-2	Anthony Dorchester		Edward Foster
	John Lamb		*Thomas Sewall
	Samuel Marshfield	1664	Thomas Day
	John Dumbleton		John Riley
	Jonathan Taylor		John Henryson
	Rowland Thomas		William Hunter
	Thomas Miller		John Scott
1653-4	Benjamin Parsons		

Those with this (\*) mark, did not remain in town.

## [E.]

The actual grants of house lots, in the original settlement on the street, as made at first, so far as they can be gathered from the records, was as follows, beginning at the south.

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Width of lots.</i>	<i>Names.</i>	<i>Width of lots.</i>
John Lombard,	6	John Clarke,	8
Hugh Parsons,	8	Alexander Edwards,	8
Jonathan Burt,	8	James Bridgman, at first }	8
Benjamin Cooley,	8	Thomas Horton's,	8
Reice Bedortha,	8	Thomas Mirrick,	8
Griffith Jones,	8	John Leonard,	8
John Matthews,	8	Robert Ashley,	8
Jonathan Taylor,	8	Francis Ball, first John Wood- }	8
Thomas Thomson, or }	14	cock's, bounded north by }	8
Widow Margaret Bliss, }		way to training place,	
George Langton,	8	James Gregory, or Thomas }	10
Nathaniel Bliss,	10	Stebbins', bounded south }	
Nathaniel Pritchard,	8	by do.	
John Harmon,	8	William Warriner,	8
Henry Burt,	8	Richard Sikes,	9
Samuel Wright,	8	Richard Exell,	8
Rowland Stebbins,	8	Samuel Chapin,	8
Morgan Johns, only a short dis-		George Moxon,	14
tance in front,		Henry Smith,	20
Widow Deeble,	8	Elizur Holyoke,	20

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Width of lots.</i>	<i>Names.</i>	<i>Width of lots.</i>
William Pynchon,	30	John Stewart,	10
Thomas Cooper, before }	14	Samuel Terry,	10
John Cabel's, }		Hugh Dudley,	10
John Searle,	8	Obadiah Miller,	10
Miles Morgan,	10	Simon Sacket,	10
Francis Pepper,	10	Abel Wright,	10
Simon Beamon,	10	Richard Maund,	10

## [F.]

A fact is mentioned in the addition to the last edition of Winthrop's Journal, to shew that the General Court of Massachusetts considered all the settlements as still subject to them. "1636, 4th month, 28. Warrant to the constable of Watertown at Connecticut, [Wethersfield,] to seize and inventory, John Oldham's goods, who had been slain by the Indians, for payment of his debts.

## [G.]

"1635. By the General Court it was ordered that there shall be two *Drakes* lent to the plantations at Conecticott, to fortifie themselves withall, also six barrells of powder, (2 out of Watertown, 2 out of Dorchester, and 2 out of Rocksbury,) also 200 shott, with other implements, belonging to the ——— that may conveniently be spared all which are to be returned again upon demande."

A Drake is a *small piece of Artillery*.

## [H.]

"February the 14 1638.

"Wee the Inhabitants of *Agaam* upon Quinnetticot takinge into consideration the manifold inconveniences, that may fall upon us, for want of some fit magistracy among us. Being now, by Gods Providence, fallen into the line of the Massachusetts jurisdiction ; and it being farr off to repayre thither, in such cases of Justice, as may often fall out among us, doe therefore think it meett by a general consent and vote, to ordaine, (till we receive further directions from the General Court, in the Massachusetts Bay,) Mr. William Pynchon, to execute the office of a magistrate, in this our plantation of *Agaam*. viz. To give oaths to constables and military officers, to direct warrants, both processes, executions, and attachments, to heare and examine *misdemeanor*, to inflict corporal punishment, as whipping, *stockinge*, byndinge to the peace or good behaviour, and in some cases, to require sureties, or if the offence require it to commit to prison, and in defaults of a comon prison,

to committ delinquents to the charge of some fit person or persons till Justice may be satisfied.

Also in the tryall of actions for debt or trespass, to give oaths, direct juries, *depone* witnesses, take verdicts, and keep records of verdicts, judgments, and executions, and whatever else, may tend to the kings (or keeping) peace, and the manifestation of our fidelity to the bay jurisdiction, and the restraining of any that violate Gods laws ; or lastly, whatever, else may fall within the power of an assistant, in the Massachusetts.

It is also agreed uppon, by a mutuall consent, that in case any action of dett, or trespassed be to be tryed, seeing a Jury of 12 fit persons, cannot be had, at present, among us, that six persons, shall be esteemed a good, and sufficient Jury, to try any action under the sum of ten pounds, till we see cause to the contrary, and by common consent shall alter this number of Jurors, or shall be otherwise directed from the general court in the Massachusetts."

#### [I.]

The hill east of the original settlement, furnishes a very great supply of springs of the purest water, as they issue from the sand. There are within the bounds of the present town, four streams emptying into the Connecticut, sufficient to carry mills, and are improved for that purpose. *Pecowsic*, which is on the southern border, *Mill river*, called by the Indians, *Usquaick*, the *Chicopee*, and the *Willimansit*. Garden brook, called in the records also, *ye town brook*, rises on the plains, and comes to the street opposite to Mr. Pynchon's settlement, before which it separates, and a part of it flows off northward, and a part of it along by the side of the street, upwards of a mile. On this, near its mouth, the first Grist mill was erected. Mill river, and the Chicopee, have been very extensively improved for mills, and machinery, of all kinds, impelled by water. The latter is capable of being improved for those purposes, to almost any indefinite extent. The same observations may be made with regard to West Springfield, in a very considerable degree, though the mill seats have not been so much occupied. The Aggawam, or Westfield river, if not diverted for the uses of the canal, must afford valuable situations for mills.

#### [K.]

Hutchinson says, Pynchon was a gentleman of learning, as well as religion. He laid the foundation of Roxbury ; but afterwards, removed to Connecticut river, and was the father of the town of Springfield. Johnson, in his "Wonder-working Providence," pub-

lished in 1654, says : "About this time Mr. Pynchon sometime a magistrate having out of a desire, to better his estate, by trading with the Indians, settled himself, very remote, from all the churches of Christ, in the Massachusetts Government, upon the river Connecticut, yet under their Government, he having some godly, persons resorting unto him, they there erected a town, and church of Christ, calling it Springfield, it lying upon this large navigable river hath the benefit of transporting their goods by water, and also fitly seated for the Beaver trade with the Indians till the merchants increased so many, that it became little, worth by reason of their *out* buying one another,\* which caused them to live upon husbandry : the town is mostly built, along the river side, and upon some little rivalets of the same. There hath of late been more than one or two in this town greatly suspected of witchcraft, yet have they used much diligence, both for the finding them out, and for the Lords assisting them against their witchery ; yet have they, as is supposed, bewitched not a few persons ; among whom, two of the *reverend elder's children*. These people inhabiting the town, having gathered into a church body, called to the office of a pastor, the reverend, Mr. Moxon who remaineth with them at *this very day*. Of whom as followeth :

As thou with strong and able parts art made,  
Thy person stout, with toyl, and labour shall,  
With help of Christ, through difficulties wade,  
Then spend for him : spare not thyself, at all,  
When errors crowd, close to thyself and friends,  
Take up truths sword, trifle not time for why,  
Christ called his people, hither for those ends,  
To tell the world, that Babels fall is nigh,  
And that his churches, through the world shall spread,  
Maugre the might of wicked men and devils,  
Then *Moxon*, thou needst not at all to dread  
But be avenged on Satan for his evils.  
Thy Lord Christ, will under thy feet him tread."

When this account of Moxon was written, he was here ; but before it was published, he had returned to England. He died, very poor, out of the ministry, September 15, 1687.

[L.]

An explanation of the Indian names of places in this deed, which is almost cotemporaneous, is made by John Holyoke, in the margin

\*Mr. Pynchon seems to have been an extensive dealer in furs, while at Roxbury. He farmed out the privilege, and paid a sum to the General Court. After he came to Springfield, he pursued the same business. Woronoco was a place famous for the beaver trade ; and Mr. Pynchon paid the General Court a certain sum for the right to trade with the Indians, in furs.



of the registry of it, in 1679. He says, "*Agaam* is that meadow on the south of *Agaam* river where the English first built. *Quana* is middlemeadow adjoining to it. *Masacksick* is the long meadow. *Usquaick* is mill river and the lands adjoining it. *Nayassett* is the three corner meadow and land adjoining, extending northerly to *Chicopee* river."

The deed of Northampton from the Indians, to John Pynchon, is dated September 24, 1653. Chichaallop, and a number of other chiefs named, all of Nonatuck, sold all the grounds on the west side Quinnecticott river, beginning from the small river, below Manhan, called Sonkwank, and so up by Quinnecticott river, to the little meadow, called Capawenk, namely to the little brook, or gutter, on this side Capawamp, which little brook is called Musquamp, and all the ground westward from Quinnecticott, for nine miles out into the woods, as far as Nausconick. The grounds included are there called by many Indian names. This deed was assigned to Northampton inhabitants, Jan. 16, 1662.

#### {M.}

The rule of apportioning these lands to individuals, was by estates and polls. The polls to be estimated at twelve pounds each, and all male children under age to be considered as polls. It was also ordered, that when divided while common or unfenced, they should be free to all the inhabitants for grass, herbage and timber, and till improved, should not be taxed. There was a provision for a school and a ministry lot in each of these divisions.

#### [N.]

The laws of the colony were at this time in manuscript. They were not printed till 1651 ; and it is doubtful whether, even then, a copy was kept here.

"Febry the 5th 1640

"A copy of such orders as are made and confirmed by the Inhabitants of Springfield the day and year above written.

"1. For the prevention of disorders in puttinge cattell to pasture, on the other side of the great river, to the prejudice of men's corne ; and yet that men may have the benefit, of the pasture there, for theyre cattell, in seasonable tyme. It is therefore ordered, that no person shall put over any cattell on the other side of the great river, to Pasture there, untill the 15th day of October yearly, and from thence untill the eighth day of March they may continue there, by which day the fields there are to be cleared of cattell of all sorts, and if any cattell shall be found there going at liberty, and not under the hand of a keeper, or in an inclosed piece of

ground, before or after the days abovesayd, the owners of the said cattell shall be lyable to a fine of 12*d.* a head for all that shall be found within a 100 rodd of any corne or meddowe, one halfe of the fine to the informer, and ye other halfe to the towne, and shall make goode whatever damadge shall appeare to be done by theyre said cattell in that tyme.

"2. Whereas the planting of Indian corne, in the meddows and swamps, on the other side of *Agawam* river, hath occasioned a long stay, after mowing tyme, before men can put theyre cattell thither to pasture. Therefore it is ordered (with the consent of all those that have planting ground there), that no more Indian corn, shall be planted there, either in the meddows, or swamps, that soe the cattell that have allotments there may be put over by the 15th day of September yearly, provided they take a sure course, to prevent, theyre cattell from goinge over the river, either by fencing, or a keeper in the day tyme, and by securing them in some inclosure in the night. But there is liberty, for calves to be put over thither, by the 14th of August. And in case any person, shall put cattell there before the day expressed, he shall forfeit 2*s.* 6*d.* by the head, for every such default, and also be lyable to pay all damadge that his cattell shall doe on either side of the river. [This order was soon changed, and the same rule adopted as in the first regulation.]

"3. It is ordere*d* that if any Inhabitant shall desire to make a Cannoe, he may have liberty to fell any tree or trees, in the towne commons, and make it or them into Cannoes, for his own use, or the use of any Inhabitant, But no such inhabitant shall have liberty, to sell or in any kinde to pass away, any Cannoe soe made out of the towne, untill it be full five years old, or if he lend his cannoe, it shall be returned within a month. And in case any shall transgress this order he shall be lyable to a penalty of 20*s.* for every default.

"4. It is ordered, that whosoever, shall take away or make use, of any mans Cannoe, without his leave shall forfeit unto the owner 2*s.* 6*d.* for every such default.\*

"5. It is ordered that there shall be no barns, or howseing built or set up in the highway, betwixt the streete fence, and the brooke, except there be soe much room as they can leave 4 rod for the streete or highway, and then men may make use, of that side, next the brooke, for what building they please. And if any shall transgress, this order it, shall be lawfull for the selectmen to appoynt men to pull downe, and demolish, such building.

"6. For the prevention, of sundry evils, that may befall this Township, through ill disposed persons, that may thrust themselves in amongst us, agaynst the likinge, and consent of the generality of the inhabitants, or select Townsmen, by purchasing a lott, or

\*These regulations as to *canoes*, were important, as they were the vehicles in which the farmers every day went from one part of their farms to another.

place of habitation, &c. It is therefore ordered, and declared, that no inhabitant, shall sell, or in any kind pass, away his house lot or any part of it or any other of his allotments, to any stranger, before he have made, the select Townsmen, acquainted, who his chapman is, and they accordingly allow of his admission, under penalty, of paying twenty shillings, for every parcell of land, so sold, or forfeitinge his land, soe sould, or passed away. But if the select Townsmen, see grounde to disallowe of the admission, of the said chapman, then the toun, or Inhabitants, shall have 30 days tyme to resolve, whither they will buy the said allotments, which said allotments they may buy, as indifferent partys shall apprise them. But in case the Inhabitants shall delay to make a purchase of the said lands, above 30 days after the propounding of it to the select Tounsmen, then the said seller shall have his liberty to take his chapman and such chapman, or stranger, shall be esteemed, as entertained and allowed of, by the toun as an Inhabitant.

"7. It is ordered, that, if any man of this tounship, or any proprietor of land, have, or any that shall or may dispose of land here, shall under the colour of friendship, or any other ways, entertaine any person, or persons here, to abide as inmates, or shall subdivide their howse lotts, to entertaine them as tenants, for a longer tyme, than one month, or 30 days, without the consent of the select Tounsmen, (children or servants of the family that remain single persons excepted,) shall forfeit for the first default, 20s. to the Towne and alsoe he shall forfeite 20s. per month, for every month, that any such person or persons shall soe continue, in this Tounship without the consent of the select Tounsmen; and if in tyme of their abode, after the limitation abovesaid, they shall neede relief, not beinge able to maintaine themselves, then he or they, that entertained such persons, shall be lyable, to be rated by the selectmen, for the reliefe, and maintenance, of the said party or partys, so entertained, as they in their discretion shall judge meete.

"8. For the regulating of workmens and labourers wages. It is ordered. 1. That all workmen shall worke the whole day, allowing convenient tyme for food and rest. 2d. Thatt all husbandmen and ordinary labourers from the first day of November to the first of March shall not take above 16d. by the day, wages, for the other 8 months, they shall not take above 20d. by the day, except in time of harvest, such as reaping, and mowing, or for other extraordinary worke, such as are sufficient, workmen, are allowed 2s. pr day. 3. That, all carpenters, joyners, sawers, wheelwrights, or such like artificers, from the first day of November, to the first of March, shall not take above 20d. pr day wages. And, for the other 8 months, not above 2s. pr day. Taylors, not to exceed, 12d. pr day, through out the year. 4. That all teames, consisting of 4 cattell, with one man, shall not take above, 6s. a day wages: From May till October, to worke 8 hours and the other part of the year six houres for theyre days worke.

"And it is further ordered, that whosoever shall, either, by giving or taking, exceede these rates, he shall be lyable to be punished by the magistrate, according to the quality and nature of the offence.

"9. It is ordered, that every householder, shall have in a readiness, about his house, a *sufficient ladder*, for length suitable to his howsing, to prevent the danger of fire, on penalty for every neglect, 5s.

"10. It is ordered, that if any person, shall be taken notice of, to carry fire in the streete, or from house to house, not being sufficiently covered, soe as to prevent doeinge hurt thereby, he shall forfeite 5s. for every such offence, proved against him, besides all damages, for what hurt may come thereby.

"11. It is ordered, that if any trees be felled, in the common, having no other worke bestowed on them, above six months, it shall be lawfull for any man, to take them: but any Timber that is cross cutt or fire wood that is cutt out, or set on heaps, or rayles, or clefts, or poles, no man may take any of them, till they have lyen 18 months, after it is so cross cutt or cloven. And in case any person shall be found to take away, or convert to his own use, any tymber, or fyrewood, &c. as aforesaid, before the tyme above limited, he shall be liable to make satisfaction to the owner, in kinde, or otherwise, to his content; and shall also forfeite 10s. to the Tounes Treasury, for every such parcel of tymber, rayles, boettes, or firewood, that he shall soe disorderly take away, and convert, to his own use. [N. B. This order was in some respects modified in 1660, but substantially continued.]

"12. Whereas, there is observation taken, of the scarcity of Tymber, about the Tounes for buildinge, sawing, shingles, and such like, it is therefore ordered, that no person shall, henceforth transport, out of the tounes, to other places any building tymber, bord, loggs, or sawen boards, or planks, or shingle Tymber, or pipe staves, which shall be growing in the Toun commons; or from Chickuppe river, to freshwater brooke, and six miles east from the great river: and, if any man, shall be found, to transgress this order, he shall be lyable to a fine, of 20s. for every freight, or load, of such Tymber, boards, shingle, or such like, by him soe transported.

"13. To the end that such *candlewood* as lyeth near the Towne may not be wasted by such as burne Tarr, &c. to ye prejudice of the Inhabitants, It is therefore, ordered, that no person, shall have liberty to gather, or haveinge soe gathered, to burn any candlewood, for the makinge of Tarr, Pitch, or Coale, within the compass of six miles east, from the great river, and soe extending from Chickuppe river, to the Longmeadow brooke; and if any shall be found to burne any candlewood, soe gathered, within the limits or bounds, above expressed, he shall forfeite 20s. for every load of candlewood, soe gathered, and burnt for Tar, Pitch, or Cole, or ye like use,

Provided notwithstanding that every Inhabitant, may gather candlewood for his own family use where he pleaseth.\*

"14. Whereas, it is judged, offensive, and noisome, for flax, and hempe, to be watered, or washed, in or by the brooke, before mens doors which is for ordinary use, for dressinge meate, therefore it is ordered that no person henceforth, shall water or wash, any flax or hemp, in the said brooke, either on the east or west side of the streete, or any where, near adjoyninge to it. and if any person shall be found transgressinge herein, he shall be liable to a fine of 6s. 8d. for every such default.

"15. It is ordered that no person shall gather any hoppes, that grow in the swamps, or any common grounds, untill the fifth day of September yearly, upon payne of forfeitinge what they shall soe disorderly gather, and 2s. 6d. for breach of order, the forfeiture to the informer, the 2s. 6d. to the Toune treasurer.

"16. Whereas it is judged needful, in sundry respects, that each Inhabitant, should have the severall parcells of his land, recorded therefore for prevention of future inconveniences, It is ordered, that every particular inhabitant, of this tounship shall repayre to the recorder, that is chosen and appoynted, by the toune for that purpose, who, upon information given him, by each person, of his severall parcells of land, the number of acres, with the length and breadth of ye said alotments, and who are borderinge, on each side of him, shall by virtue of his office, fairly record each parcell of land, with the limits, bounds, and situation, thereof, in a book, for that purpose, for which his pains, the owner of the said lands, shall pay unto the Recorder, two pence for every parcell, of his land, soe recorded. And, if any person, shall neglect the recording of his lands, longer than six months, after ye grant of it, he shall be lyable to a fine of 3s. for every parcell of land, that is not then recorded; and if after that he shall neglect to record it 12d. pr month for every months neglecte, of any parcell; And auncient grants are all to be recorded, by the last of May next, upon like penalty.

"17. It is ordered, that if any person, whose houselott lyes inclosed in a general fence, shall desire to inclose a part of it, for yards, gardens, or orchard, his neighbour, on each hand of him, shall be compellable to make and sufficiently maintain, the one half of the, said fence, from tyme to tyme, provided his share of fence amount not to above ten rods. provided alsoe, that ye said fence exceede not the charge of a sufficient five foot pale, or

\*This regulation as to candlewood, refers to the state of the plains, and the customs of the people, at that time. By the perishing of old trees, there were, on and in the ground, many pine knots, and hearts of trees, which were generally used for torch lights. Till within 50 years, it was the custom of the people, to have gathered, every fall, for family use, a quantity of these pine knots, &c. A prudent farmer would almost as soon enter upon the winter without hay, as without pine. This was gathered on all uninclosed land, wherever found.

five rayles. And in case any neighbour shall refuse to doe his share, of ye said fence, within 3 months, after due notice, given him of it, he shall be liable to pay, what damadge his neighbour, shall sustaine, through his default : and alsoe 5s. per month soe long as he shall neglect for contempt of order.

“18 and 19. [The 18th and 19th, are respecting fences, and the oversight and repair of them, and have nothing peculiar in them.]

“20. For the better carryinge on of Toune meetings, it is ordered that whensoever, there shall any public notice, be given to the Inhabitants by the select Tounsmen, or any other, in theyre behalfe, of some necessary occation, wherein the selectmen desire, to advise with the Inhabitants, and the day, tyme, and place, of meetinge be appoynted, It is expected, that all the Inhabitants, attend personally, such meeting, soe appoynted, And, in case, the tyme and houre of meetinge, be come, though there be but nine of the Inhabitants assembled, it shall be lawfull for them to proceed, in agitation of whatever busyness is there propounded to them, and what the major part of the Assembly there mett shall agree upon, It shall be taken as the act of the whole toune and binding to all.

“21. The first Tuesday in November yearly [altered afterwards to February.] is mutually agreed on and appoynted, to be a general toune meetinge, for the choyce of Toune officers making, continuing and publishing of orders, &c. on which day, it is more especially, expected, that each inhabitant, give his personall attendance, and if any shall be absent, at the tyme of *calling*, or absent himself without consent of the major part, he shall be lyable to a fine of 2s. 6d.

“22. It is alsoe ordered, that on the first Tuesday, in November, there shall be yearly chosen, by the Inhabitants, two wise, discrete men, who shall by virtue of an oath imposed, on them by the magistrate, for that purpose faithfully present, on the Court days, all such breaches of Court, or toune orders, or any other misdemeanors, as shall come to their knowledge, either by their own observation, or by credible information, of others, and shall take out process for the appearance of such as are delinquents, or witnesses, to appeare the sayd day ; when all such presentments, by the sayd partys, shall be judicially heard, and examined, by the magistrate, and warrants for distresses, granted for the levying of such fines, or penaltys as are annexed to the orders violated, or which shall seeme meete and reasonable to the magistrate, to impose, or inflict, according to the nature of the offence. These to stand in this office for a year or till others be chosen in their roome.\*

“23. It is ordered and declared, that when any man, shall be fairly and clearly chosen, to any office, or place, of service, in and

\*These officers, called *presenters*, were chosen for many years. After grand jurors were chosen, they had only town orders to execute.

to the toune, if he shall refuse to accept, or shall afterwards, neglect to serve, in that office, to which he shall be chosen, every such person, shall pay 20s. fine for refusall to the Toune Treasurer, unless he has served in that office the yeaere before ; no person being, to be compelled, to serve two years, together in the same office, except selectmen, two whereof, if chosen againe, are to stand two yeares together ; that so, there may be always some of the old selectmen who are acquainted with the Toune affaires, joining with the new.

24.—[Relates to the regulation of swine, and is not necessary to be transcribed. An officer, unusual in later years, was chosen as a general swine ringer, and his fees stated.]

“25. To the end that the common Highways, of the Toune, may be layed out where, they may be most, convenient, and advantageous, for the general use of the toune, it is therefore ordered, that the select Tounsmen shall have full power, and authority, to lay out all common highways, for the Toune, where and how they shall judge most convenient, and useful, for the Inhabitants, though it be through or at the end of mens lotts. Provided, they give them reasonable satisfaction, according to equity ; but if the party like not thereof, then it shall be referred, to the Judgment of indifferent partys mutually chosen, by the partye and the select Tounsmen : and if those two indifferent partys, do not agree they shall pitch upon a 3d person to join with them, and determine it.

“26. And the Select Tounsmen are allowed, liberty to set a certaine toll, on carts, that shall pass any highway, which shall appeare more than ordinary chargeable, in the reparation of it.

“27. For the equall, and indifferent carryinge on and bearinge the charge, of makinge and repayreing such common highways, and bridges as are, or shall be thought, needful, to be made, or repayed, from tyme, to tyme, within this township, it is ordered, that every householder, that hath, or keepeth, in his use, or possession, a Teame, consistinge of four cattell, shall on due warninge, given him by the surveyor, send at every day, and place appoynted, his said teame, with his cart, and such necessary tooles, as the surveyor, shall allowe of, and an able man therwith, to doe such work, as the surveyor, shall appoynt him. The like is to be done, by those that have but halfe teames. And, it is further ordered, that every other householder, who hath no teame, shall by himself or some other faithful labourer, attend the worke appoynted, him by the surveyors, on every day, that he shall be called, or required soe to worke. And, it is alsoe ordered, that all persons inhabitinge in the toune, who are above £100, estate in other rates, and yet have no teame, every such person, shall be compellable to send one sufficient labourer, to the highway worke, on every day, that he shall be duly warned thereunto, accordinge to his proportion with other men.

"It is alsoe further ordered, that every person shall cut downe his stubbs, and cleare the highway, before his lott, of tymber wood, standing trees, (which are hereby declared to be a mans own), or any other offensive matter, that the surveyors shall warne him of, within three days after notice given him, or else be lyable to a fine of 12*d.* for every defect.

"28. Whereas, there are surveyors, chosen yearly, for the oversight and amendinge of highways, bridges, and other defects of that nature, that soe the common highways of the Towne may be kept in continuall reparation. To that end, and for the regulatynge of surveyors, in the discharge of their office, It is ordered yt ye surveyors for the tyme beinge, shall take care, 1. That highways, bridges, wharfs, &c. belonging to theyre care, be made, repayed, and amended sufficiently, accordinge to theyre discretion, or as they shall be directed by the select Tounsmen. 2. That all highways be kept cleare from trees, Timber, wood, earth, stone, or any other offensive matter, yt shall anoy the highway, within a mile of any dwelling house. 3. That if any person, upon notice given him by the surveyor, shall neglect to remove, or cleare away, any such annoyance to the highway; or offensive matter, by him caused, longer than 3 days, then the surveyor shall doe it; and have double recompence for all his labor, cost and charge, from the party so neglecting, besides the 12*d.* which the party is to pay in way of fine, for neglect, according to the order forementioned. 4. That the surveyor shall give three days warninge to such as they call for, and require to come to the highway worke, viz. the day of warning and a day more, soe that men must come the 3*d* day after warning, unless the surveyors give them longer tyme. 5. That they shall require no householder to worke above 6 days in a yeare; nor more of these six days than shall, in a due proportion, fall to his share. 6. That the surveyors shall require no man to worke above two days in a weeke. 7. That they call for these 6 days, for as many of them as shall serve, within the compass of tyme betwixt the 20th of May and 20th of June, yearly, and not at any other time, unless by the consent of the major part of the select Tounsmen, it be agreed unto; and yet, inasmuch as sometimes ways suddenly become defective, that they may not too long be neglected, it is declared, that three of ye selectmen meetinge, and any two of them agreeing, may appoynt and allow the surveighours to repaire such defective ways. 8. That they duly present to the select Tounsmen, all defects of persons, or teames, that, on lawfull warning given, neglect to come to the worke appoynted, who shall give warrant to the constable, for present distress, of 2*s.* fine for a man, and 5*s.* for a man and teame, to be employed in the next worke that is to be done about highways. 9. That they give in theyre accounts yearly, to the selectmen, at the general meetinge in November, when they yield up their office another yeare."



These byelaws, some of them, were made at an earlier date, and adopted into this code at this time. They were all revised and transcribed, in the year 1664, and entered in another book. Some of them were then modified, and a few of them repealed. The most of them were never formally annulled ; but as new circumstances occurred, and other regulations, either public or private, were made, they went out of use.

There were two or three regulations, not in this system, which ought to be noticed. As to highways, in 1640, the surveyor was "to oblige all to remove stubbs, sawpits, or tymbber, from the highways ; and if any person neglected, he should forfeite 1s. and if continued, 2s."

As far as the brook lay upon the street, there was a special regulation as to that, made in 1657 : "that all the Inhabitants between Mr. John Pynchon's, and the lower side of Benjamin Parsons', who are proprietors of any part or parcel of the wet meadow before our doors, shall take care to cleare and scour the brook, soe far as theyre lott or alotments is in breadth, in the same meadow ; and that it be done sufficiently, to the approbation of the selectmen ; and that by the last of June next, upon penalty of 3s. 4d. per week, for every parcell that is found undone at that tyme, and so to continue pr week, till the worke be fully done ; the which fines shall be duly levied by the constable, and improved for public use."

In 1660, this subject was again before the town, when, uniting an order made January, 1638, as to scouring ditches before the houses, and the order of 1656-7, it was provided, "that the proprietors of the meadows should keep a good and sufficient ditch, well cleared, for the easy and ready passage of ye water, and for that purpose, from 6 or 8 rods above where the brook come to the street, should annually, in the month of May, scoure and cleare ye said ditches and water passages, of sand, dirt, wood, or any rubbish, so that ye water may have free passage away, without penning up, to flow the meadows. Every person neglecting, to pay 5s. to the town, and for after neglects, 3s. 4d. a week : the whole to be done under the care of two of the selectmen, to be specially appointed for that purpose."

The method of defraying town charges, appears to have been one of some difficulty. At first, the assessment was upon land, by the acre : this was afterwards confined to the homelots. To pay for the land purchased of the Indians, each individual was assessed according to the quantity of land he held. In 1655, it was ordered, "that all lands, and howsing, and live stock, which a person owned, should be appraised and assessed at their value."

This mode of rating was again altered, Feb. 1660-1. Houses, lands, and living stock, (except swine put up for fattening and killing,) were to be appraised and assessed ; and men's persons also, to be valued from 16 years old and upward, at £12, £16, or £20, at the discretion of the selectmen ; all except sick or infirm, to be

included : men also to be rated for their merchandising and trading, according to the trade they drive in the town, to be determined by the selectmen. In 1663, a fourth class for rating persons, was made, to be set at £8. All were to be valued by the *appraisers*.

At the first settlement of the town, it was much infested with wolves and foxes. A premium was given for the killing of each. This was to be levied, at first, only upon cattle ; but afterwards, it was a general charge upon the town. Some years the claims on this account amounted to a considerable sum.

To shew the value of estate here, at an early period, and the relative value of its different kinds, I have taken from the Pyncheon records, a copy of the inventory of Nathaniel Bliss, taken February 14, 1654-5. He lived a little south of where Union street unites with Main street.

"Housing and home lott, 5 acres, . . .	£6	0s.	0d.
Wet meadow before the house, 3 acres, . . .	3	0	0
Wood lot, 5 acres, . . . . .	1	0	0
Over ye great river, 9 acres, . . . . .	4	10	0
At the Longmeadow, 26 1-4 acres, . . . . .	8	10	0
Over Agawam river, 5 acres, . . . . .	8	5	0
Meadow on the Mill river, 2 acres, . . . . .	0	14	0
2 Cows, . . . . .	7	10	0
3 Swine, . . . . .	1	5	0
3 kettles, 1 skillet, and 1 pale, . . . . .	1	13	0
7 pieces of pewter, 13s. ; 7 do. of tin, 4s. . . . .	0	17	0
Warming Pan, 5s. ; a frying pan, 2s. . . . .	0	7	0
Earthen ware, 4s. ; wooden ware, 20s. . . . .	1	4	0
2 bedsteads, 10s. ; 2 chairs, 3s. . . . .	0	13	0
3 boxes and a chest, . . . . .	0	7	6
Axes, spades and hoe, . . . . .	0	7	0
Plough chain and share, 10s. ; curtain staves, 7s. . . . .	0	17	0
Cradle and chest, . . . . .	0	5	0
Bedtick, with flocks and feathers, . . . . .	1	10	0
A musket, sword, and bandaliers, . . . . .	1	2	6
Hat, 5s. ; jacket and 2 pair of breeches, 18s. . . . .	1	3	0
Pillow, 3s. ; books, 10s. ; a spinning wheel, 2s. . . . .	0	15	0

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£42 10s. 6d.

It seems that the cows were appraised at upwards of \$16 each, while land in the homelot and meadows, was not more than \$5 an acre. Land was then abundant, and cattle were very scarce. It appears that the accounts of the selectmen were audited yearly, and a particular statement made and entered on the record. A minute account was given of the town's property : *e. g.* In 1660, it is noticed, "that Lawrence Bliss is to pay for the chain of the steel-trap, which he lost ; and there is one of the town's one iron hook and eye, in the post of the gate going to the training place, and another at Thomas Cooper's house."

## [O.]

On the subject of the roads in the town, though there is no record of the laying out of Main street, yet it is constantly referred to, as a road, a street, and a highway. It was ordered to be four rods in breadth, till it left the brook, and then to be three rods ; and from the bridge across the brook, to the gate at the upper end of Long-meadow, it was to be also four rods, and through the meadow, of the same width. It passed under Longhill. The town street has been several times regulated : it was done in 1664, by the selectmen, and in 1769, by a committee of the Court of Sessions, when it was made a county road, if not before. The upper end of the street was made 6 rods wide, in 1662, from the bank of the meadows up to Round hill. The road through the meadow, called the middle causey, now State street, was only two rods wide: the road from the meadow up the hill, was wide. From the rear of the wood lots, to pass up the great hill, it was twenty rods broad : the principal ascent was overcome by winding up the hill, farther south than any part of the present county road. The road to the burying ground was originally only one rod, then altered to 1 1-2, and afterwards to two rods. The original roads to Skipmuck, the Sixteen-acre road, the road through Longmeadow, and through West Springfield, on the way to Windsor, were all laid and kept, many years, twenty rods wide.

## [P.]

The right to permit cattle to run upon the town commons, was considered, in the early settlement of the town, a most important privilege. It was constantly exercised by the inhabitants ; and much dependence was placed upon the commons, for pasturing cattle during the summer. The highways that were laid 20 rods broad, were laid of that width, avowedly, for the purpose of pasturage. The cattle were all branded, and each man's brand was recorded. While wood lands remained uncultivated and unfenced, the right of pasturing upon them was claimed ; and for more than a century and a half, was exercised, without question, or dispute. Nearly all the milch cows, as well as young cattle, which were kept in the town, especially in the first parish, were, till within 40 years, depastured on the commons. There were many evils in this practice : cattle would destroy young timber : persons were tempted to set fire to the woods, that there might be better feed. After the country became populous, the pasture grounds were diminished ; and the ancient simplicity and honesty being much diminished, it was found that cattle were not very safe on the plains. Immediately after the law authorising towns to restrain cattle from going at large, was passed, in 1800, this town passed a vote imposing such a restraint. This has tended to increase the growth of wood, and also the quantity of pasture land .



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